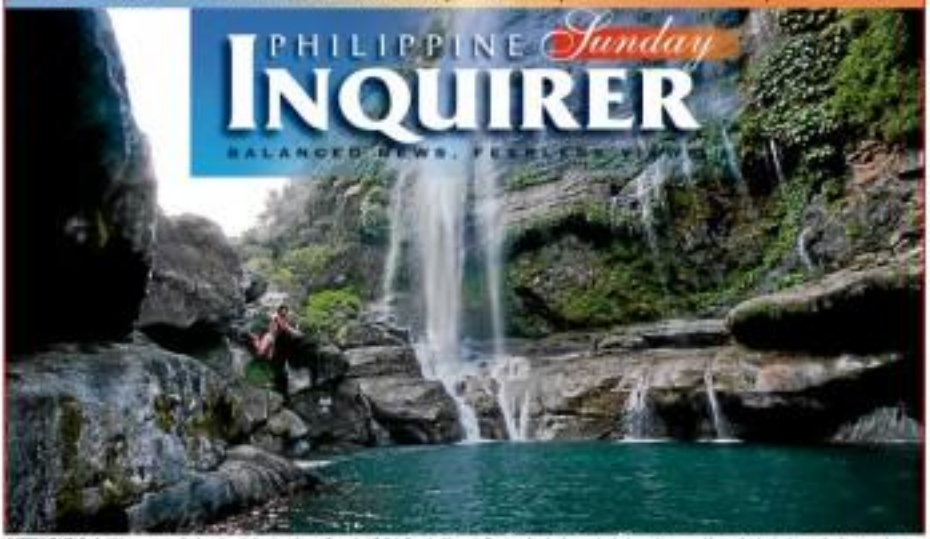
Sunday, March 27, 2011 | 44 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 109 / P33 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile News: Text INQ to 2800 for details | TEXT MOVES DEEP INSIDE

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS.



WATERING HOLE A child prepares to dive into the pristine clear river at Bessang Pass in Sagada, Mountain Province. Lowlanders are beginning to shop around for trusted destinations as the dry season is now upon us even as rival barrios fortify for a "test" summer.

Lacson back, suddenly

Senator set to meet media tomorrow

By Edwin dela Cruz, Inquirer Visayas, Marlon Ramos and TJ Burgonio in Manila

CEBU CITY—Sen. Panfilo Lacson has slipped into the country after more than a year in hiding, saying "like he didn't want to be noticed."

The senator who turned fugitive in connection with the 2000 Jesus Cobitz murders arrived at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport in Lapu-Lapu City at 11:40 a.m. yesterday on board Cebu Pacific Airlines' Flight CEB32 from Hong Kong. He was wearing a hat and sunglasses and fell in line like the other passengers, said lawyer Nancy Lim Tupic. Bureau of Immigration (BI) deputy head supervisor for administration on Mactan Island.

Earlier yesterday, Lacson's media relations officer Gerry de Belen said the senator would not be ready to meet with reporters until Monday.

"He wanted to spend more time with the family and then on Monday, he would face the media," De Belen said by phone, quoting Lacson's son and chief of staff Ronald Jay Lacson.

Al-assisted Celis, Lacson left the Mactan airport for Manila aboard a chartered Raron-type twin-engine airplane with tail number RPC 2711, Chief Supt. Ignacio Cruz Jr., spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, told the Inquirer in Manila.

HOMECOMING | A2

Homecoming had news for Manzi | A17

EARTH HOUR Kids of Isla de Convento, Mandaluyong, at Edsa Shangri-La.

60 minutes of darkness for world to see the light

By Tina G. Santos and Inquirer Bureau

"THIS IS amazing. I'm having goosebumps. This makes me realize that we can still do a lot of things even without electricity," a teenage girl was overheard telling her mom as lights were switched off for an hour at the Mall of Asia (MOA) last night as part of a worldwide observance of Earth Hour.

For 60 minutes, the lights went out in other malls and in many homes across the Philippines in a symbolic act intended

NEWS, FOCUS | A-2

The real Samurai: 'Fukushima 50' swells to 700

EYES BY FOREIGN MEDIA Dressed in radiation protective suits, workers prepare for the decontamination of 3 nuclear plant workers exposed to radiation upon arrival at a Fukushima hospital.

TOKYO—Radiation injuries in three workers at Japan's stricken nuclear plant have put a focus once again on the unnamed and largely faceless corps of men risking their lives to prevent further catastrophe for their countrymen.

Five dubbed the "Fukushima 50," their number has now risen to more than 700 workers toiling inside an evacuation zone at the facility on Japan's northeast coast that was battered on March 11 by an earthquake and then a tsunami.

Feted by foreign media and an ou

THOMAS, A19

Japanese patient, discipline; Grateful Japan receives PH donations of relief goods | A16

For injured workers, agency goes out on a limb

By Charlie S. Bukot

ALMOND Loyzaga had just ended what he recalled was an uneventful day at a car shop in Bonny City. As always, the 47-year-old auto mechanic would ride his trusty bike to get home to Brgy. Cavite.

But as fate would have it, this particular bike commute would turn out to be Loyzaga's most unforgettable—a loss (none from out of numbers and six

He woke up the following day at the Philippine General Hospital

FOR INJURED, A-4

Azkals 'live' on Twitter: It's the next best thing

By Francis TJ. Dalisay, Assistant Sports Editor

THE ONLINE world is still abuzz with conversation on Twitter's fifth anniversary and how it has exploded from its original purpose as a social-cobbogging site into a social networking phenomenon.

Fittingly, Twitter radically morphed over those five years into a different tool, one that allowed Filipinos to "watch" their newest sporting darlings, the Azkals, compete in Burma (Myanmar) during the qualifying tournament for the AFC Challenge Cup.

"It's like watching (the game) on TV," tweeted @jakib86, one of the many football fans who followed the Inquirer's live

AZKALS, A-14

Sin statue starting to look like the cardinal's face value

By Philip C. Tubeza

THAT'S more like it.

After being widely criticized for looking more like martyred hero Ninoy Aquino, a monument to the late Manila archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin near the Rizal Park has been "improved" and is now a reasonable facsimile of the original.

SIN STATUE, A-19

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE
• Five keys to keep yourself safe from one of summer's most common ailments • Yeng Guiao: No more Mr. Nice Guy

SUNDAY LIFESTYLE
• Girl cries 'rape': 2 most prominent families may end up in court. • Bulgari jewels 'therapeutic' for Elizabeth Taylor

NEWS
• Survival kit: What's in the bag. • Kin of Pinoy sentenced to death write letter to Chinese President begging for her life

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2 P 3

11AM	2	1
4PM	3	2
9PM	2	8

QUARTRO

11AM	9	5
4PM	2	9
9PM	3	7

SIX DIGIT (Lotto 6/42)

6	9	7	4	2	5

MEGA LUZ 2/15-MIN

7	15	20	22	23	40

P15,224,754.60

6/55 GRAND LOTTO

1	2	9	13	24	44

P66,786,775.20

LOTTO '3PM' Draw ONLY LOTTO, conducted by PCSO, Philippines

Drug mule's kin beg Hu for her life

By DJ Yap

THE FAMILY of one of three Filipino drug mules scheduled to die by lethal injection in China this week will hand-carry a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao begging for the life of 32-year-old Sally Ordinario-Villanueva.

"We... beg for her life and humbly ask Hua she be granted clemency by Your Excellency," the letter, addressed to Chinese President Hu Jintao.

"Your Excellency, death penalty is too severe a punishment for an unbecoming human with, more by good by criminal intelligence," it says.

The Ordinario family, who have sought for China, said they realize that the Philippine government's diplomatic appeals for clemency in behalf of the three Filipinos may have been exhausted.

"This appeal is not a diplomatic move... This time, we are making a personal appeal by the family," said the Ordinarios' lawyer Jeremiah Belgica, who called a press conference at the Manila Yacht Club on yesterday.

Edith Ordinario, Sally's mother, said the family was grateful to the government, particularly Vice President Jejomar Binay and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), for their efforts in trying to save the lives of the three Filipinos on death row.

Binay spoke the interventions of President Aquino, on Friday, where President Hu to make a "last appeal" for clemency. On Saturday, the Vice President made a call for justice.

"Let us group for another mission, that the lives of our kababayan (compatriots) will be spared. Let us not lose hope," Binay said in a statement.

Edith, her husband Geronimo and two of their children hope for a last chance to see Sally.

"The DFA said we had this option to watch (the execution) but I said no... It was the family's decision. We don't want to see her die," Geronimo said.

Sally's husband, Hilarion VII, laments her opted to stay behind in their home in Bulacan to look after their children, a 12-year-old daughter and a 10-year-old son.

It was learned that the daughter would be graduating with honors from her elementary school in April.

"He didn't want to share the children the suffering that their mother is going through," Joel's contact Hilarion said.

Sally and Ramon Credo, 32, will be executed in Hunan, and Elizabeth Batain, 38, in Guangzhou. They were arrested separately in China in 2008 for carrying several kilograms of heroin, and convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to death in 2009.

The three were originally scheduled to be executed on Feb. 28 and 21, but a reliefs, pleas and appeals for clemency by a high level Philippine delegation led by Binay moved China to postpone the execution.

On Wednesday, the DFA announced that the execution would happen on March 30.

The Ordinarios' letter also cites efforts by the family to reach whom they called the real perpetrators behind Sally's indictment, including her brother Jaymon's successful undercover attempt to track down the recruiter who enlisted her into smuggling drugs into China.

They insisted that Sally was not a member of a drug syndicate but a victim. Their letter details how the family set out to uncover members of the syndicate who victimized Sally.

"Two years ago, our beloved Sally left for China with high hopes for a bright future for her family. She would be having and selling cellular phones in the Chinese the Philippines. Her recruiter gave her luggage to put her clothes in, without her knowing it contained 4.1 kilos of heroin. This led to her apprehension and death sentencing in your country. Now Sally faces (it)," they said.

The family narrates further how Jaymon, desperate to prove his sister's innocence, approached Sally's recruiter for a job, pretending not to know what happened to her.

This led Philippine authorities to arrest and indict eight members of the drug syndicate, their Chinese contact.

"We believe that by our family's actions and sacrifices, we have contributed to your country's battle against the international illegal drug trade," they said in the letter.

"We only ask Your Excellency to reduce her sentence in accordance to your country's law and let her live. Our whole clan will be forever grateful to you and we will continue to fight the evil of drugs," they said. With a report from Williamor Magsa Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Stand firm, Aquino tells new cops

By Norman Bordadora

ILIGAN, CMTTE...President Aquino yesterday warned new police and other public safety officers to be grateful for the opportunity they have been given.

He also told the 2007 graduates: "Aside from the wisdom and knowledge that has been imparted to you by the PMA, you will also need principles to defend acceptance and poverty."

He added: "You will be bribed with huge amounts of money to snatch your honor. You will be offered many positions to betray your values. At the face of these temptations, I expect that you will not give in."

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo declared that the members of the graduating Hinalugan class of 2007 had been commissioned members of the PNP, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and the Bureau of Fire Protection effective yesterday.

Two hundred nineteen of the graduates are going to the PNP: 26 to the BFP and 31 to the BJMP.

"Now that you are already in a position to promote value to right, I hope that you will not forget this. Do not take this for granted. Do your duties with all your heart and with all faithfulness," President Aquino told the graduates.

"To fulfillment of our admission test in leading the corrupt system," he added.

The graduates were led by valedictorian Abdi Pangcot of Baguio City, salutatorian Sherlie Allapitan of Cabagan, Isabela, and first honorable mention Chenlier Bayaga of Dingalan, Aurora.

The three were among the seven women who captured the Top 10 spots in the PMMA's order of merit this year.

The rest of the Top 10 were Bart Carlo Golde of Victorias City; Joy Anne Cruz of Magallanes, Cavite; Manuel Daniel of Imus, Cavite; Mahmud Hassan of Isabela; Johnny Bay Isaya of Sagnaegan, Lanao del Norte; Ma. Cashlea Mabel of Tuao, Cagayan; Catherine Cao of Malitbog, Leyte; and Sherwin Bolano of Quezon, Palawan.

"Where you go out to the real world, your mistakes avail cross the line of legality or domestic. Every one of your countrymen that you will protect from crime or save from fire or guard in the jails will never be matched by any reward or medal," Mr. Aquino said.

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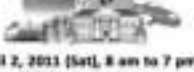

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No TLC for Ligot

TERY HAD crossed paths when both were still both in the military, but Senate Sergeant at Arms Brig. Rolando Nas denied giving special treatment or "tender loving care" to former military comptroller Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot.

Balajadia said Ligot was being treated like an ordinary detainee.

"There are speculations circulating that he's being given VIP treatment. I'm not buying stories. I treat General Ligot no different from the way I treated Janjan Bukidnon," Balajadia told in an interview, referring to a former high-profile inmate detainee.

He admitted knowing Ligot personally.

He said that when he served as AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserved and Retiree Affairs in 1999, Ligot was also praised as general headquarters.

Ligot has been under detention since Thursday night for not attending the last blue ribbon committee inquiry into military corruption and for lying to senators about his medical condition.

Responsible

He is being held in a small windowless room in the Senate basement with a bed, air-conditioner and bathroom.

Ligot was only being given restricted access to his counsel, Balajadia said.

"If anything happens to him, they might blame it on me."

According to Balajadia, Ligot is granted all his medical maintenance medicines in his diet as a diabetes patient and is allowed to consume vitamins during office hours, and to go out for stretching under guard.

Except for the visit of his lawyer on the night he was detained, Ligot has not received any visitors from his immediate family, according to Balajadia.

Forthright

Asked by reporters if there was any arrangement to unwind, Ligot from the media when he was taken into custody Thursday night, Balajadia said he was not aware of any.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, blue ribbon committee chair, had said that Ligot would be detained until he become forthright on his alleged ill-gotten wealth and stopped invoking his right against self-incrimination.

The committee had cited Ligot and his wife Yolanda in contempt for evading last Thursday's hearing, but suspended the order for his arrest and detention due to her health condition.

TJ Burgonio

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Burgos ma fears for officer linked to son's abduction

By Doris Z. Pizarro

"I FEAR for the life of Major Ibañez now that he has been pinpointed. People who were behind the abduction might want him silenced," said Edita Burgos, mother of the disappeared activist Jonas Burgos.

But the Armed Forces of the Philippines says no need for special security arrangements for an officer implicated in the 2007 abduction of Burgos despite concerns that he may be silenced before a formal criminal inquiry could be conducted.

Col. Dominga Tinsan Jr., head of the newly established AFP Human Rights Office, said Friday it was enough that Maj. Harry Ibañez had been placed with the Army Headquarters Support Group in Fort Bonifacio.

The AFP had cited an assurance that Ibañez would be available for any criminal investigation.

"Personally at this point I don't think there is a need for security. Somebody's accounting for him already," Tinsan told reporters.

Earlier Friday, Burgos' mother led a rally outside the AFP general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo asking the military to turn Ibañez over to "independent" and neutral bodies.

Edita Burgos, who had tasked the Supreme Court to order the military to produce her son, called on findings to come clean and reveal the masterminds of the abduction.

Data March 15 report to the Supreme Court, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) identified then Lieutenant Ibañez of the 56th Infantry Battalion as the "principal by direct participation in the abduction of Burgos."

A member of the Bulacan chapter of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Burgos was taken by a group of four men and a woman from the Four Seasons Mall in Quezon City on April 28, 2007.

Witnesses said Burgos was thrown into the back of a maroon Toyota Revo whose license plate was later traced by his mother to an impounded Isuzu ASV in the Army's 56th IB headquarters in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Last year, finding that the military and police had failed to pursue the case, the Supreme Court ordered the CHR to conduct a "comprehensive and exhaustive investigation" of Burgos' abduction.

The high court said authorities did not follow up the lead provided by a retired state prosecutor that the possible abductors were military intelligence agents named Army T/Sgt. Jason Roman, Air Force Cpl. Mario Jessie Velasco, Air Force M/Sgt. Ann Arroyo and an alias T.L.

Tinsan said the military would cooperate with the CHR in the investigation of Burgos' abduction, which took place at the height of the secretary killing and disappearance of political activists during the administration of then President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We give the assurance to everybody that the AFP would be in collaborative efforts with the CHR on this matter. As on security, Gregorio will be turned as the point ... But that's not the task of the AFP. That's for other units," he said.

Ibañez was among the officers cited by the CHR report, 40th Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. recalled Ibañez from the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City where he was assigned, and ordered him to report to the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Tinsan said he met with Ibañez on Monday night to inform him of the CHR report and inveterate mandate that criminal charges be filed against him for Burgos' abduction.

He said he also told Ibañez that the latter would be legally assisted by the Judge Advocate General's Office if he desires but would advise him to hire a private lawyer. PDI's report from Leila B. Salaverria and Marlon Ramos

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Palace: Prompt police action can end killings

By Norman Bordadora and Kristine Felisse Mangahas

MALACAÑANG yesterday said there was no need to allow journalists to carry guns to parry the threats to their lives.

Communications Operations Secretary Herminio Coloma said that one way to stem threats to journalists' lives was immediate police action in bringing the killers to justice.

He said "a wholesome climate for free expression" would also help.

"Perhaps, there's no need for that," said Coloma over government dzRB radio when asked if he was in favor of arming journalists.

"The answer perhaps is the immediate and prompt police action of bringing the perpetrators to justice and to create a wholesome climate for free expression so that there would be no reason for such outcomes," he said.

Coloma made the remarks following the assassination of dzME radio commentator Mauricio Flores Sonieves in Malolos City on Thursday.

"What happened in Malolos [comes] wasn't right because they had a dispute that was being recalled by the courts. Why did it have to end in killing. Just ring a person who was just espousing his/[her] opinion," Coloma said.

Addressing the concerns that violence against journalists continued under President Benigno Aquino's government, Coloma said the record speaks for itself.

He said cases had been filed against the suspects in the killings of media professionals Jose Dagupio of Bulletin, Miguel Rubio of Tagumpay Sun and Ferdy Ortega of Visayan.

A colleague of Sonieves, meanwhile, recalled her words while fighting for the rights of some 500 residents of Hagedo over a piece of land.

"If you know you are doing the right thing, you fight for it," Dante Flores said he often heard Sonieves say.

Flores is vice president of the Silonian Neighborhood Association of which Sonieves was president. They had been actively pushing for the residents' ownership of a 4.2-hectare property in Barangay Hagedo.

"Lou would tell me to never give up and to always stand my ground," he told the bystanders in the interview at his home a few meters from where Sonieves was killed.

Sonieves's group, Sitio Road Neighborhood Association and Barangay Hagedo Neighborhood Association, was pushing for a government-initiated socialized housing project, but this was contested by some residents who sided up establishing another association in the mid-1990s.

Sonieves, 45, was killed by assassins riding on site was walking in an alley near her home.

Baltazar A. Beltran, 47

BALTAZAR Abad Beltran died on March 25 after a lingering illness. He was 47.

He is survived by his sisters Divina Joanna, Josephine, Angelica and Sarah Lyn; nephews and nieces led by Earl Daniel, Paul Joseph and Alexis Michelle; and cousins led by Sally Gaid and Alice Buenaventura.

He ashes will be at 10:11 Apo St., Mountain View Subd., Filinvest II, Quezon City until 7 p.m. Sunday when they will be transferred to St. Peter Parish Columbarium on Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City.

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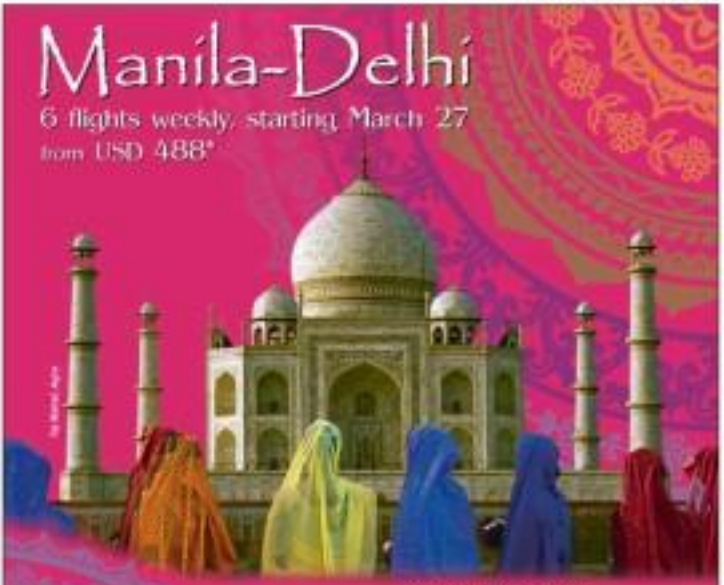

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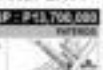
SBN-614 — MBP : 29,250,000
COMMERCIAL STORE — MANILA
Location: The Empire Plaza Condo., Brgy. 754 Mesangkiga St. Ermita, Manila
Floor Area: 315 sqm (11 units, 4 levels) + 150 sqm (13 parking slots)
Remarks: Prime PEZA Commercial Spaces at Tabacalera. About 50 m SW from the intersection of Mesangkiga St. and Dominga St.

SBN-3230 — MBP : 31,500,000
COMMERCIAL LOT — PARAÑAQUE
Location: Along Concepcion Ave., San Dionisio, Parañaque City, near ENDCOM Plaza
Lot Area: 4,501 sqm
Remarks: Corner lot of Golden Town, 2010 SM San Dionisio Plaza and 150 m from Lanao Supermarket and Department Store

★ INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

SB-673 — MBP : P13,700,000
INDUSTRIAL LOT — PATEROS
Location: No. 200 E. Almeda St. & No. 638 Flores St., Sto. Rosario, Pateros, Pateros
Lot Area: 2,357 sqm
Remarks: About 150 m SW from the cor. of Dr. Concepcion Ave. & Elisco road. Some 800 m NE from Pateros town proper.



★ MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

SCR-810 — MBP : P6,778,000
MIXED-USE LOT — QUEZON CITY
Location: No. 2 Malakitan St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City
Lot Area: 900 sqm
Floor Area: 900 sqm
Remarks: Adjacent to Manila Memorial Park. About 100 m SW of Fairlay Elementary School. Average road about 20% to the of the Arranya & V. Luna Sts.

SCR-09121 — MBP : P20,000,000
RESIDENCE LOT — QUEZON CITY
Location: No. 41 Sharp Drive, Tatalgonan, Novaliches Q.C.
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: NE corner of Sharp Dr. about 80 m from Tatalgonan Elementary School, some 200 m SW from Susmo Highway & 1.3 KM SW from SM City Fairview.

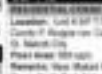
★ RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

SB-474 — MBP : P8,500,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT — QUEZON CITY
Location: 2,053 SQ. Yovela St. Area B, Brgy. Talayan, Regency Triangle, Quezon City
Lot Area: 2,000 sqm
Remarks: About 50 m from Christ the King Church and about 600 m from the Church of Lanay (Road of the Lotter Day Saints)

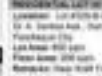
SB-406 — MBP : P7,800,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT — MANILA
Location: No. 3113 Pier St., Barangay 649, Zone 69, Malate, Manila
Lot Area: 1,124 sqm
Remarks: About 30 m from the cor. of Pier & Herminia Sts., some 250 m west from the cor. of Gumboa St. & Abad Santos Ave. & about 650 m from Abad Santos LRT Station.

SBN-364 to 0184 — MBP : P7,488,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (6) — ANTIPOLO
Location: Mary Ville Subdivision, Brgy. Lutac, Antipolo
Lot Area: 1,124 sqm
Remarks: About 500 m south from the corner of Marcos Highway & Sumulong Highway, about 150 m north from Sitio Lutac Elementary School. A block of 6 lots for sale.

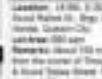
SB-442 — MBP : P8,850,000
RESIDENTIAL CONDO UNIT — MAKATI CITY
Location: Unit 4-SP Tower, Condo P. Burgos cor. Calderon St., Makati City
Floor Area: 169 sqm
Remarks: New Model Prime Home, South Park Estate, Bacoor
High School, Aztec Hotel, Millennium Plaza, Jupiter Arena and The Forest Park Mall



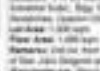
SUN-015 — MBP : P9,000,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT (4 UNITS) — PARAÑAQUE CITY
Location: Lot 4125-B-1-XXXX Dr. A. Santos Ave., San Antonio, Parañaque City
Lot Area: 600 sqm
Floor Area: 200 sqm
Remarks: New Wall Fixed, no boundary along the western side of an Alley Road within Lot Posay Compound.



SCN-0011 — MBP : P12,700,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT — QUEZON CITY
Location: 18 Blk. D-30, No. 30 Road Rubber St., Brgy. Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: About 150 m south from the corner of Timog Avenue & Kamuning Road. Frontage is about 20 m wide along Rubber St. & depth of 34.50 m.

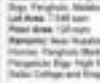


SBN-620 — MBP : P15,800,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT (6 UNITS) — QUEZON CITY
Location: 6 (6) Barcelona Executive Subd., Brgy. Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 1,000 sqm
Remarks: End lot, from the cor. of San Jose Delgado and Bonifacio Ave., about 650 m NE from the Sauyo High School.



SBN-611 — MBP : P12,388,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (2) — VALENZUELA CITY
Location: 656 Sr. Hermenegilda St., Malinta, Valenzuela City
Lot Area: 4,138 sqm
Floor Area: 280 sqm
Remarks: Adjacent to San Roque Church. About 50m SW from McKinley Hiway and about 2.5 km NW from Valenzuela City Hall.

SU-080 — MBP : P12,829,800
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (2) — VALENZUELA CITY
Location: #145 Pangilinan Road, Brgy. Pangilinan, Malabon City
Lot Area: 1,040 sqm
Floor Area: 120 sqm
Remarks: Near Acuzena Subdivision, Homes Pangilinan Market, Pangilinan Brgy. High School, Radio College and Engelwood Apt.

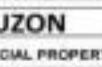


SB-487 — MBP : P16,900,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (2) — QUEZON CITY
Location: No. 51 Calauna Street, Culiat, Quezon City
Lot Area: 1,000 sqm
Floor Area: 1,710 sqm
Remarks: 50 m from the N.E. cor. of New York and Tgt. Cathoria St. (G) to 60 m Corner Complex Bldg. and 200 m SW of Tandang Sora Avenue.

LUZON

★ COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SP-823 — MBP : 8,000,000
COMMERCIAL LOT — CALAUAN (PUERTO G...)
Location: Aning Brgy. road, within Barangay Aplaya, Bgy. Aplaya, Calauan
Lot Area: 5,121 sqm
Remarks: Located near concrete bridge, St. Peter Apartment & Vista Verde, Aplaya Village and Aplaya Village



SBN-0348 — MBP : 11,000,000
COMMERCIAL LOTS (4) — LIPA, BATANGAS
Location: Lot 4-A-1 Brgy. Mataas na Kahoy, Lipa, Batangas
Lot Area: 700 sqm
Floor Area: 1,100 sqm
Remarks: Currently this site is a Mixed-Use Area. 100 m south from Lipa City Hall and approximately a KM NE from SM Lipa City.

SBN-0247 — MBP : 18,210,000
COMMERCIAL LOTS (2) — LIPA, BATANGAS
Location: 22 CM Recto cor. Katigbak Sts., Poblacion, Lipa City, Batangas
Lot Area: 980 sqm
Floor Area: 1,176 sqm
Remarks: Currently this site is a Mixed-Use Area. 100 m SW from Archdiocesan Shrine of the Holy Child Jesus and 50 m NW from Cathedral De Dev Immaculate

★ INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES

SP-019 — MBP : 17,500,000
INDUSTRIAL LOT — CARMONA, CAVITE
Location: Along Governor's Drive, Barangay Maduya, Carmona, Cavite
Lot Area: 3,760 sqm
Remarks: Along DA side of Governor's Drive (Aguinaldo Brgy. Road). Near Gate 1 of Carmona Industrial Park. Water Reticulation Area.

SP-018 — MBP : P40,000,000
INDUSTRIAL LOTS (16) — LAGUNA
Location: Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Brgy. Laguna, Biñan, Laguna
Lot Area: 33,000 sqm
Remarks: Located along SLEX and Nuvali Panorama Road. Near Globe Gates Office, Shell Gasoline Station, Barbecue Inn, Pure Mount View Hall, Pure Water Treatment Plant.

★ MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

SP-303 — MBP : 8,310,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (3) — SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA
Location: Victor Villabrazing Subdivision, Calendola, Dusmariñas
Lot Area: 723.075 sqm
Remarks: Interior Subdivision. Located 100 m SW of Nuvali Drive along Nuvali Highway and 800 m NW of Pacita

SUN-021 — MBP : 7,700,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (2) — LA LOMA, CALOOCAN CITY
Location: Nung National Road, Brgy. Pamplona, Navotas, La Loma, Caloocan City
Lot Area: 2,270 sqm
Floor Area: 1,200 sqm
Remarks: About 200 m NE from Pamplona Elem. School, some 800 m SW from Hotel Kalaya and about 2 km south from Navotas Municipal Hall

SBN-016 — MBP : 8,000,000
MIXED-USE LOT — BULACAN, PAMPANGA
Location: Hon. E. Nguyuban Highway cor. Capalangan St., San Vicente II, Brgy. Dolores, Lot Area: 6,621 sqm
Remarks: Corner of Gen. E. Nguyuban Highway and Capalangan St. and about 250 m from NE of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

SB-380 — MBP : P23,760,000
MIXED-USE LOT — CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Location: Lot 2-B-1-NEW, Arnedo Brgy., Canlubang, Laguna
Lot Area: 1,540 sqm
Remarks: Lies along south side of National Rd. and between Sto. Tomas Subdivision and Gen. Trias Subdivision. Lies along South side of National Rd. and between Sto. Tomas Subdivision and Gen. Trias Subdivision. La Duella Enterprises and JES Bldg. and 500 Calamba Hotel.

SB-341 & 342 — MBP : P83,000,000
MIXED-USE LOT — CALAMBA, LAGUNA
Location: Lot 2-C-2-A (10,190) Arnedo Brgy., Canlubang, Laguna
Lot Area: 11,000 sqm
Remarks: Lies along south side of National Rd. and between Sto. Tomas Subdivision and Gen. Trias Subdivision. La Duella Enterprises and JES Bldg. and 500 Calamba Hotel.

SP-012 — MBP : 26,700,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (5) — ALFONSO, CAVITE
Location: Crescent Private Drive, Brgy. Dulong Bayan
Lot Area: 611.10 sqm
Remarks: Near Canyon Dark Resort, Tagaytay-Nasugbu Highway, Dulong Bayan Elementary School and Palace Pool. Shell Station along Luis Pivier. 100 m south from the entrance of Canyon Cove Resort.

★ RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

SP-048 — MBP : P8,930,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (68) — BULACAN
Location: Diamond Hills Subd., Camalaniugan, Calumpang, Bulacan
Lot Area: 15,000 sqm
Remarks: Adjacent to the Polanco Maternity Clinic and Hospital. About 500 m from the main entrance of San Jose Complex and 250 m from Camalaniugan Elem. School.

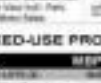
SB-384 — MBP : 18,830,000
RESIDENTIAL LOT — TAGAYTAY CITY
Location: Lot 7257-R Lopez Drive, Sungay, Tagaytay City
Lot Area: 6,000 sqm
Remarks: Located on the left side of Lopez Drive across of Tagaytay Highlands and about 300 m SW from Bella Vist.

SCR-09100 — MBP : P22,680,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (100) — QUEZON CITY
Location: Sta. Monica project, Brgy. 44-A, Caloocan (Area 1/A), Manila Bay
Lot Area: 120 sqm
Remarks: Across Emmanuel Baptist Learning Center, approx. nearby 280 m from Northbound University and Subic Airport Road

SP-100 — MBP : 37,000,000
INDUSTRIAL LOT (5) — LAGUNA, BATANGAS
Location: Sitio Sinisian Subd., Brgy. Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna
Lot Area: 60,000 sqm
Remarks: Near Golden Mills, Cabuyao Central School, Cabuyao Elementary School, Pulong Sta. Cruz Cross Road, Pulong Sta. Cruz Elementary School, Intersection of Rail and cutting lanes.

★ AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

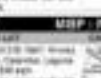
SP-357 — MBP : 4,725,000
AGRICULTURAL LOTS (4) — BATANGAS
Location: Ambon Brgy. Bolbok, Ibaan, Batangas
Lot Area: 4,500 sqm
Remarks: Property backs onto Bolbok Main Road. 350 m SE of the National Road. 1000 m SE of Bolbok Bridge, and about 900 m from Bolbok Elementary School.



SU-018 — MBP : P8,400,000
AGRICULTURAL LOT — CABUYAO
Location: Brgy. Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna
Lot Area: 6,000 sqm
Remarks: Located at Niugan Access Road, Subic Diversion Road, Cabuyao, Laguna. About 50 m SW of Niugan Bridge. About 1.5 km from Subic Diversion Road.

SP-888 & 907 — MBP : 8,650,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (2) — LAS PIÑAS CITY
Location: Along NPC, near Kamuning Wireless, Pilgrims Wireless Province
Lot Area: 671.100 sqm
Remarks: West Terraces Bridge Power Plant and Wireless Elementary School

SB-317 — MBP : 13,830,000
AGRICULTURAL LOT — TANAUAN, BATANGAS
Location: Villa Hidalgo, Brgy. Darasa, Tanauan City
Lot Area: 9,000 sqm
Remarks: Private subdivision. Near Darasa and Pinagtong Bata Beach and Lodging. Bay Resort. Approximately 4 km NE from the entrance gate of Diokasan Brgy. Talaud.



MINDANAO

★ COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SU-233 — MBP : 28,270,000
COMMERCIAL LOT — DAVAO CITY
Location: Jacinto Extension Rd., Barangay, Davao City
Lot Area: 6,853 sqm
Floor Area: 5,484 sqm
Remarks: Property occupied by COLE Pizza, Near Sonnenmayer Construction Center, Philippine Red Cross Blood Donor Building and Annex Complex.

SU-244 — MBP : 43,810,000
COMMERCIAL LOT — DAVAO CITY
Location: 1,141.61 Diversion Rd., Barangay, Davao City
Lot Area: 1,625 sqm
Floor Area: 4,000 sqm
Remarks: Current site of Shoemart Express. Near Gaisano Mall, Gaisano Grand Hotel and Gaisano Grand Citimall.

★ MIXED-USE PROPERTY

SU-808 — MBP : 8,348,000
MIXED-USE LOT — DAVAO CITY
Location: 2-11 Tabunan, Talomo-City
Lot Area: 14,000 sqm
Floor Area: 1,400 sqm
Remarks: Opposite the Pajero Pizza Hut and Brgy. Hall. About 200 m NE from Pajero Pizza Hut and about 1.5 km SW of Talomo Proper.

★ RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

SU-218 — MBP : 90,240,000
RESIDENTIAL LOTS (2) — DAVAO CITY
Location: Sir. Bolton Pengo, Davao City
Lot Area: 677.661 sqm
Remarks: Northern portion of Hangar Center Hotel. A subsidiary of the San Miguel Corporation. Adjacent to the Davao Airport and about 500 m from SM Davao. Lies on the intersection of Diversion Rd and Langub Rd.

★ AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

SU-181 — MBP : 16,250,000
AGRICULTURAL LOT — DAVAO CITY
Location: Riverview Executive Village, Panabo, Davao del Norte
Lot Area: 14,500 sqm
Remarks: Across Lolo Chavez Rice Mill Warehouse No. 1. Near Panabo Elementary School, Panabo Public Market and Stadium.

CONTACT INFO:
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JENNY - 63-951-7231, 63-917-8838, 0917-8882276
KEN - 63-951-7256, 63-917-8842, 0917-8834762
JEROME - 63-951-7213, 63-917-8835, 0917-8882278
RACELLE - 63-951-7231-9861, 0917-8882261
RONALD - 63-951-7235, 0928-5084454
JOVEY - 63-951-7232, 0928-5084441
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PH looks to stronger ties with new power – India

By DJ Yap

THE PHILIPPINES seems to strengthen trade relations with another emerging Asian superpower—India.

The Philippines and India pledged greater cooperation in business and industry during the 1st Philippines-India Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) held on March 11 in New Delhi, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The DFA said that improving ties with India would place the Philippines in a better position "geo-politically" with respect to China's growing influence in the region.

Bilateral trade between India and the Philippines for the $1-billion mark last year.

At other than signs of becoming economic between the two countries, Philippine Airlines announced that starting March 28, it would fly to New Delhi six times a week.

Foreign Secretary Albert F. del Rosario said Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Hon. Preneet Kaur led the Philippine and Indian delegations, respectively, at the inaugural JCBC.

"At this is also my maiden JCBC meeting, so to speak, I am pleased to have it with India—a strong and enduring partner of the Philippines for more than 60 years," Del Rosario told a press conference.

He said there was much potential and opportunity that both countries could explore and take advantage of.

The foreign ministers noted that the $1-billion target in bilateral trade by 2018, set by the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment at its 10th meeting in New Delhi in November 2008, had been overtaken.

Both sides said they were encouraged by the recent purchase by an Indian company from a Philippine firm of two 175,000 dead weight-ton (dwt) container ships, the 300 Rishi and the 600 Vanchee. The ship's turning ceremony was attended by President Aquino in January.

The two countries also stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation in other sectors such as tourism, agriculture, health, energy, education and culture.

On behalf of President Aquino, Del Rosario extended an invitation to Indian President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to visit the Philippines, the DFA said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

MARCH 27 (Sunday)
Psalter Week 5
3rd Sunday of Lent
Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.
Gospel: Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39, 42 (or Jn 4:5-42)

Jesus came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there. Tired from his journey, Jesus sat down by the well; it was about noon. Now a Samaritan woman came to draw water and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy some food.

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?" (For Jews, in fact, have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift of God! If you knew who it is that asks you for a drink, you yourself would have asked me and I would have given you living water."

The woman answered, "Sir, you have no bucket and this well is deep: where is your living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and who he drank from it himself, together with his sons and his cattle?"

Jesus said to her, "Those who drink of this water will be thirsty again; but those who drink of the water that I shall give will never be thirsty; for the water that I shall give will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not be thirsty and never have to come here to draw water." Jesus said, "Go call your husband and come back here." The woman then said to him, "I see you are a prophet; tell me this: Our fathers used to come to this mountain to worship God, but you, town, the one not claim that Jerusalem is the only place to worship God?"

Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you shall worship the Father, but that will not be on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship without knowledge, while we Jews worship with knowledge, for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is even now here, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for that is the kind of worshippers the Father wants. God is spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah, that is, the One who is coming, when he comes, he will tell us everything." And Jesus said, "I who am talking to you, I am he."

At that point many Samaritans believed in him when they heard the woman who declared, "He told me everything I did." So, when they came to him, they asked him to stay with them and Jesus stayed there two days. After that many more believed because of his own words and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you told us, for we have heard for ourselves and we know that this is the Savior of the world."

'P-Noy pro-family planning stand unchanged'

By Norman Bordadora

SILANG, CAVITE—President Aquino's support of modern family planning hasn't changed despite the huge Catholic Church backlash against the reproductive health (RH) bill on Friday, Malacañang said yesterday.

"The President's position has never changed on reproductive health. Again, I'm not talking specifically about RH bill, but the President's position on modern family planning has not changed," Communications Development and Strategic Planning Secretary Ricky Carandang told reporters.

Despite the rally led by the Catholic hierarchy and attended by up to 40,000 at the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta, Carandang said that more Filipinos wanted access to modern family planning.

Told the rally was a show of overwhelming support for the position against family planning, Carandang said, "Well again, I think the survey will show that's not correct. Sixty-to 70 percent, I don't have the exact figure, but something close to 70 percent of people surveyed candidly say they want access to modern family planning."

At the House, Deputy Majority Floor Leader Janette Garin, one of the proponents of the RH bill, said many of the participants at the Catholic rally were "misinformed" about the bill's contents.

The chief of the bill does not endorse abortion, as opponents claim, but it promotes both natural and modern contraceptive methods. It also calls for sex education in schools.

Garin said that instead of both sides hurling accusations, the believers they should hold public discussions on the matter so that the facts would be set straight.

UP and Ateneo teachers

A joint statement in support of the bill was recently released by 200 university professors, including many from the Catholic Ateneo de Manila University.

The joint statement by the professors called for the passage of House bill 4244 and urged the public to be more discerning of information they have about the proposed legislation.

"Our studied and collective opinion is that House Bill 4244 is a real piece of legislation. Its passage will mandate policies which will save women's and men's lives, improve infant survival, enhance young people's health and well-being, and enable couples and individuals to make responsible decisions in planning their families," read the statement which the professors said they signed in their individual capacities.

National Artist, panelist

Signatories included faculty members from the University of the Philippines. Familiar names on the pro-RH list included National Artist and Ateneo Magsaysay awardee Resil Mojares, lawyers and economics professor and Ateneo columnist Solita Monsod, both professors emeritus at the UP.

The statement, released amid Church criticism of the measure, also emphasized that the proposal "is not about population control, nor does it violate any other rights and freedoms," as often contended by detractors.

While commending legislators espousing the bill in Congress, the professors criticized the anti-RH camp's "inept use of science" in disputing the benefits of a comprehensive reproductive health law.

For instance, said the professors, those against the bill have "misrepresented the safety and effectivity" that condoms and "period saver from contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"We feel the need to comment on the way science has been misused by those who oppose this bill. We have seen the misrepresentation of easily verifiable information, such as the actual text of the proposed bill. We have witnessed the misuse of outdated studies, data that have already been disproven, or studies that cannot be replicated to support what are merely ideological positions," read the statement.

The professors also assured fellow teachers who allegedly "inflict incentives, such as bonus points" for students who join the anti-RH movement.

"We denounce this, regardless of whether the teacher is for or against the RH bill," the professors said.

Anti-RH proponents

On the anti-RH side was former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who joined others in support of the Knights of Columbus "Walk for Life."

According to Davide, "the threats to life caused by earthquakes or tsunamis, or even nuclear radiation, and arms races and mass pulverization to the destruction of life or the threat to life by state policies or legislation," such as the bill.

Pro-life advocates claim that the bill allows the use of artificial contraceptives that are abortifacient or cause abortion. (With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Tarra Quismundo)

THE COSMOPOLITAN REVIEW CENTER
CONGRATULATES
The following CPAs PASSEDWEN who successfully passed the 2010 BAR EXAMS
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University of the Philippines
9th PLACER
Alfaro, Manuel Emilio B
Ang, Mark C.
Balcazar, Filipinas D.
Baldivia, Lowell L.
Bandal, Jason M.
Bautista, Jr., Raymundo B
Bayla, Brian Ashley M.
Bernardo, Kristine M.
Bueno, Erwin B.
Cabrera, Reynaldo Frederick B
Cano, Christopher P.
Carbajal, Cristelle L.
Chua, Rhia Gertrude M.
Cuenco, Mary Anne C.
De Rosario, Richard M.
Diaz, Rosalica E.
Dizon, Mr. Ronald N.
Echavez, Manuel R.
Erfano, Joel Jacob L.
Escobido, Annie T.
Fajardo, Ramon J.
Farlas, Gladys A.
Gervacio, Jose Pepito G.
Grande, Jeanelyn A.
Jamandre, Edwin L.
Javier, Geraldine F.
Jimenez, Ms. Cecilia B
Joson, Alvaro Manuel L.
Lagas-it, Felipe N.
Lagman, Maria Clarita T.
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ENROLLMENT GOING ON
(Pre-Bar and Pre-Week Classes with MCQ's Exclusive)
DEAN RICARDO L. DIZON
Review Director

He Was RIGHT!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG warned that Japan, like Germany, would rise from the rubble of World War II to again disturb the peace of the world.
DO YOU REMEMBER?

AT THE TIME THIS was written on the Japanese businessmen of Surrender, in August 1945, Herbert Armstrong was warning that a remilitarized Japan, allied with China, Russia and other Asian nations would again embark on world conquest, with a 200-million-man army. He was right!

Today, the new government in Tokyo is rejecting America to favor of rapprochement with China and Russia. Japan boasts one of the top five military arsenals and the world's second largest navy. She can mass-produce weapons and, if desired, could become a nuclear power within a year.

A serious regional crisis would spur Japan to offer its vital might to secure vital Asian sea-lanes and supplies—to the deadly peril of all of Asia!

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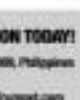

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Marriage annulments up 40%, says report

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NUMBER of marriage annulment cases in the Philippines has risen by 40 percent in the last decade with at least 11 cases filed every day, according to a report by the Catholic bishops' news agency.

Citing data from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), CBCP-News said the number of annulment cases had risen from 4,500 in 2001 to 6,282 in 2010.

"The data from the OSG showed that 82 percent of those who filed these cases had children and out of this, 69 percent had at least one or two children, 21 percent had three to four children and one percent had five to eight children," the report said.

"The children of these marriages are likely to be affected by the separation of their parents," it added.

The report was based on a document sent to the Church news agency by the OSG and signed by Solicitor General Jose Anselmo I. Cadiz, Assistant Solicitor General Karl B. Miranda and Senior Division Chief Jaime Roy A. Calubaquib.

"It was learned that those who filed for annulment, 61 percent were women with 90 percent of them in their 20s, while only 9 percent were in their 30s," the report said.

"The same study revealed that only 10 percent of men initiated the filing of the complaints with 70 percent of them in their 30s," it said.

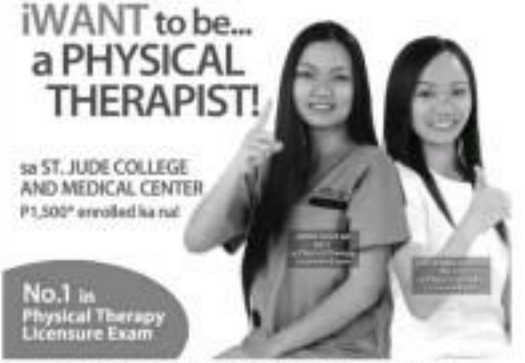
The report added that only 20 per cent of the men who asked for an annulment were in their 30s or 40s.

It also noted that the longer the marriage, the less the chances of the parties to seek annulment.

"Some 85 percent of married couples filed their annulment cases within the first five years of their marriage," the report said.

The OSG report said that of marriages that lasted five years or more, only 26 percents ended in annulment, while those that lasted more than 10 years, only 17 percent opted for annulment.

The common ground cited for annulment was psychological incapacity. Other grounds included lack of authority of the solemnizing officers, bigamous or polygamous marriages and marriages where one or both parties were below the marrying age.



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SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011

Palace walks line with PAL, union

ISLAMIC Carlos Malacañang yesterday said it tried to balance the competing interests of Philippine Airlines (PAL) and its workers when it decided to uphold the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) decision of letting the outsourcing of PAL non-core services.

The Office of the President has upheld the DOLE permit that PAL can outsource non-core services, that the movement of rank-and-file employees to be affected by the outsourcing of ticketing area valid, and that PAL cannot be held liable for unfair labor practice in the implementation of Management prerogative.

The PAL employees Union (Pilea) said the move would lead to 2,648 employees losing their jobs, and their shift to contractual employment with short-term service providers.

Palea yesterday said it was preparing to go on strike.

Palea president Leny Rivera declared the Palace decision and all has assured President Aquino and he acknowledges, particularly Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, of being in a compliance with PAL owner Lucio Tan.

Marvyn Bordadora and Philip C. Ribosa

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THE NEW BODY LANGUAGE

HYUNDAI EXUDES A LONG-LASTING DRIVING IMPRESSION WITH THE NEW SANTA FE CUV

First impressions last. That is why when you see or the first time, you know but one that're capture second glances. Cars have their ability to extend your senses. As you improve your movement on the road, so does your automobile reflect your presence to the rest of the world.

Driving is connecting body language to a whole new level. So whether you are strolling down the driveway or trekking the outdoors, you need to have a flexible road runner that can easily propel you with an exclusively-charged driving experience. Just like the New Hyundai Santa Fe CUV—a strongly-built crossover that can easily accessorize your passion with its sleek exteriors; defines your command for speed with its supreme performance and agility; and defines your true character with its unique design and engineering.

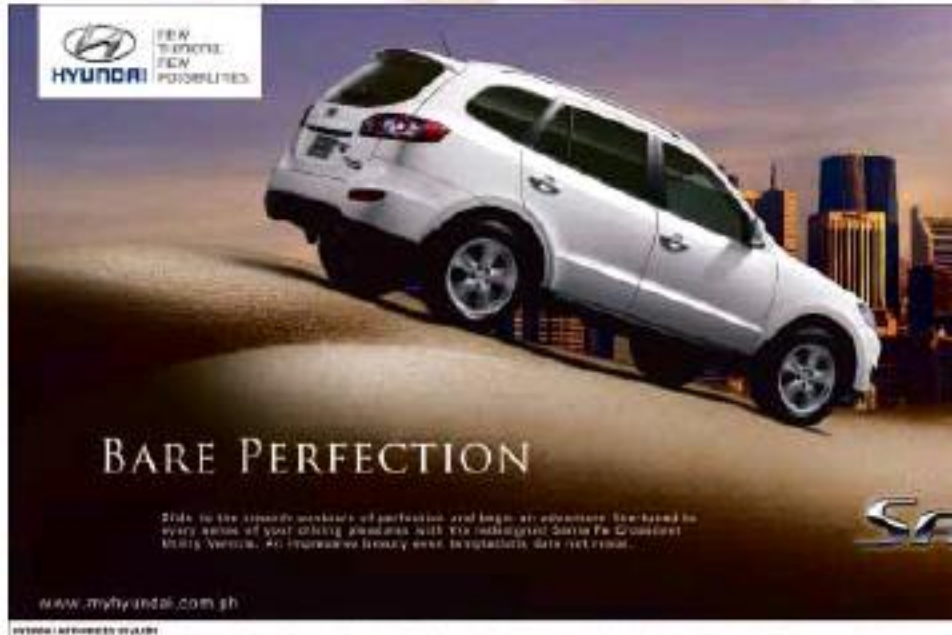
POWER UNTOLD

Commanding with immense power, performance, and agility, the Hyundai Santa Fe crossover unveils an adventure above the moment you steal your first glance upon it — a superior motor built with a rough and cutting-edge profile; a ergonomic interior defined with a distinguishing metropolitan look. It is a distinctive presence whether enhancing myths on streets or exploring the lands worldwide. But what makes it a pretty irresistible object of desire is its versatility. You have just set your eyes on a mesmerizing technological wonder.

Ten superior powertrains redefine the dynamic abilities of the new Santa Fe — a 2.4-liter Theta II gasoline engine that can unleash a exciting power of 174ps @ 6000rpm and a maximum torque of 23.0kg-m @ 3750rpm. And a 2.2-liter R engine, the 3rd generation CRDi diesel engine, capable of yielding a peak output of 197ps @ 3800rpm and a healthy 44.5kg-m of torque at a range of 1800-2500rpm.

While these can values generate a tempting desire urging you to unleash a powerful expression on the road, and until you discover a much more enticing twist in each of these action. The Theta II, with its flex-fuel gasoline capability, comes with a Dual CVVT (Continuously Variable Valve Timing) that allows for precise engine control, fuel economy, and cleaner emissions. While the R engine variant, sponsoring the excellent qualities of the CRDi, boasts of a new innovation called eVGT or electronically controlled Variable Geometry Turbocharger that remarkably reduces NVH, lowers vibration, and maximizes fuel economy, and extend engine longevity. Benefiting from its third generation common rail system developed by Bosch, the piezo-electric injection of the Santa Fe's R eVGT engine delivers fuel at 1800 bars, providing an unprecedented degree of accuracy and control.

Mated to a compact yet lightweight 6-speed automatic transmission with Shiftronic® feature, the new Santa Fe crossover only translates your wildness into superior driving expressions even on a wide selection of geographies. And as it is fitted with front MacPherson strut type and rear Multi-link suspensions, striking the tough ride becomes a much more convenient and appreciable experience for you, endowing you with a new language of speed and supremacy while other drivers and passengers could just stare at you with fascination, or probably an implied tinge of jealousy.



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PASSION FLOWS

A sweptback stance with its provocative shadows and indisputable beauty. The Santa Fe exudes an unmistakable exterior, harmonizing with a three-dotted body-colored radiator grille (2WD) or flow-type black with chrome radiator grille (4WD), newly-designed front and rear bumpers, fog lamps, and rear combination lamps. All your 9 nightmare your irreversible claims for perfection and transition, it communicates your every attitude to break free from monotonous while enjoying driving at the seat of attention.

Inside, an unmistakable air of comfort envelopes you as you are comfortably in its luxurious 7-people cabin, granting you an expected tactile experience with its high-class fabric (2WD) or quality leather (4WD) seating options. Adding to the serene ambience is the cool breeze coming out from the Dual Full-Auto aircon with texture (4WD) that eliminates bad odors in the cabin. Easily controlling your attention as well are the center fascia and elegant wood grain accents, along with the audio remote control design on the steering wheel and illuminated instrument gauge cluster that bring the Santa Fe to more premium levels. And the video and music experienced on its high quality audio components surrounds your discerning taste for a top-of-the-line drive with its 1.1Gb DVD, CD/MP3/WMA/DivX/AVI/JPEG Player, Bluetooth, SD Card Reader, Auxiliary Input/iPod cable (for 2.4 Theta II 4WD and R Engine), While the 6.2-inch TFT LCD with touch Screen Navigation and Reverse Camera (except for 2.4L Theta II 2WD variant) extend your senses through video entertainment and rear visibility. Before you know it, you are in love with the Santa Fe!

When it comes to safety and security the Santa Fe does not compromise. Always on the go, its front foot airbags, ELR seatbelt with pretensioner, height adjuster, and load limiter constantly assure you just as your 3-Point ELR seatbelts guarantees a higher degree of safety to your friends or family. The 2nd row seats also come with Active Headrests that support the neck and head, essentials in the event of an accident.

Underneath, the 4-Wheel Electronic, 4-Sensor, 4-Channel Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution takes total responsibility of wheel traction and steering control, further amplifying your poise as you satisfy the wanderlust in you.

And while in the dark, the Auto-Light Control (2WD/4WD R eVGT and 4WD Theta II variants) immediately turns on when the Santa Fe approaches dimly lighted areas like road tunnels as it gently on the spotlight area you're being you visible among other drivers as well. Other safety enhancements include an Immobilizer, Electric Heated Outside Rear View Mirrors with power folding feature (2WD/4WD R eVGT and 4WD Theta II variants), and Front Wipers with Rain Sensor (2WD/4WD R eVGT and 4WD Theta II variants).

Before you even get to make a lasting impression on the road, the Santa Fe will surely captivate your heart first with its riveting power, cutting-edge technology, and opulent features designed to provide your deepest desire for an emotionally thrilling driving experience. And once you get a hold of its straight-out beauty, it will be as if your new face in the world of mobility... your own body engages... for it will not only expand your senses, but also sends you astronaut!

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Marcos victims: Money not enough

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

ELIZABETH Tampurong walked out of the small room, her face a picture of calculated delight. She just claimed a check worth $1,000 or about P43,000 from an American lawyer whom she did not know.

There was not much reason to be happy about the claim, she says, as she walked towards the exit of the Alternative gymnasium in Davao City on March 21.

Inside the gymnasium were still a dozen other claimants, victims or families of victims of the tyranny of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Tampurong picked the check on behalf of her brother, Cenelo, whom she has not seen since Sr. 1985, right after he was taken by a group of soldiers while he was working on their farm in the village of Buena Suerte in the town of Maco, Davao de Norte.

"There is nothing to be happy about getting this. This is not enough compensation for the life of my brother. There is just no way for anyone to pay for the life of my brother. This is not even enough for us to settle and accept that he is not with us and can never be with us anymore. This cannot even be a start of closure for our lingering longing to see him again," Tampurong said.

Distribution

Over the years, she said, the family was bombarded with questions over the fate of her brother, then 38 years old, the family breadwinner.

"He will want to know what happened to him. Where he is now and why did they have to take him away? These questions are really difficult especially for our ailing mother," she told the Inquirer.

Monday's distribution of the compensation for the victims of human rights abuses during martial law here was emotional for many of the victims and their families.

Alfredo Cadagdagan, 72, could not be pacified by the compensation. It seems he will, pay for the amount of disappointment that the monstrosity of the government under Marcos had caused him and his family.

DELINE Mayene holds her check representing her compensation for being a human rights victim under the Marcos regime.

Nightmare

"They accused me of being a rebel and I was not a rebel. However, I have high respect and admiration for the rebels and their ideology and how they seamlessly with discipline and respect for the people, fight for it," Cadagdagan said.

His mobility, now only made possible through the help of a walking cane and his daughter, Cadagdagan was busted after by the soldiers who arrested him illegally in their small village of Tibi-an in Lasa Liera in Compostela Valley province.

His now 41-year old daughter Mirasol, who was only 9 years old then, said her father went missing for several weeks before they, too, became victims of the abuses of the soldiers of Marcos.

"We were so frightened one night when the fully armed soldiers barged into our house and ordered us to go out and leave the village. My siblings were very young and my father was still missing. We were swallowed by confusion and fear," she said.

"We we happy at last? I don't really know," she said.

Before it ends, about 80 checks have been distributed.

Of the 9,539 names in the original list, at least 3,631 from Davao Region were deleted. The withholding distribution of checks that started Monday caused to only more than 600 victims.

Lilibeth Andres, 53, is one of those not in the list.

"I feel like being a victim many times over. For how can this happen in me and to many other victims of human rights abuses? To say that I am very frustrated is nothing because I am appalled how victims like me are subjected to another injustice," Andres said.

Andres, who was tortured after she was arrested on Aug. 17, 1983, in Libungan, North Cotabato, filed her case in 1991, after which she received a letter from Judge Ahmed Real of the 12 District Court of Hawaii and American lawyer Robert Swift.

Andres was later joined with former priest Leonardo Ernaiz, now the mayor of Bluebaye town in Bohol. They were arrested on Aug. 17, hours before the wedding of their friend, Lolibel. Four of their colleagues, she said, died after they were subjected to torture sessions operating in Digos City.

"I received four letters from them in 1990s. But then, suddenly, the letters no longer came. I even sent Swift an e-mail but got no reply from him," said Andres who was informed later on by her lawyer.

Rodolfo Molinda, 46, was also not on the list.

"I was imprisoned for a year since April 1983. It's frustrating to know that we were not included on the list. But we are waiting for a miracle. Right now it feels like I am running my trail out on a campaigning pitol, waiting and hoping that at the end of the day I would get fish," Molinda said.

The problem of Molinda, who was also part of the original claimants, was that he reportedly received his assistance from Ford Aid to Mauling in Bukanegan.

"Maybe the letters were sent but were somewhere and never reached me. I hope they will reconsider my case," he said.

Human rights lawyer Annie Avellano, one of the claimants, said he was not about those who did not get the compensation.

Procedure

"The legal system operated within a procedure. If you do not follow a procedure, then you do not enter the legal system. The compensation is only a concept of damages. It cannot undo the pain. This is only a civilized way of approximating some degree of compensation for the rights abused," said Avellano, former head of the Free Legal Assistance Group.

He said "doing what is right, fighting the tyranny, without expecting any monetary compensation is something that is priceless."

Avellano was jailed after he visited in Camp Catitipan human rights lawyers Larry Digan and Marcos Risonar after their arrest on May 18, 1983. He was held at a tower to leave the camp and was told that he was also under arrest.

On Jan. 13, 2011, Judge Real issued an order that only those able to file claims in 1990 and 1995 are eligible claimants, which numbers to 9,220. Those are those who received letters on Feb. 14, 2011.

Betty de Vera, also a victim and awaited as a volunteer for the Commission on Human Rights for the distribution of claims, said it is unfortunate that the hope of the victims who are not in the list are doomed by the order of Real.

"I don't know what happened only that during that time, there were many underlovers. We argue that they were not able to file the needed requirements. We were always encouraging them to file," she said.

"It was not even about getting compensation but getting the recognition that we were victimized by Marcos," said De Vera, a political prisoner then who was detained in 1981 and for four years in 1982.

De Vera's husband, Benjamin, was also a political prisoner. He also said there is still hope for those not in the list.

The same was expressed by Gabriela Women's party list Rep. Liza Ragsit, who claimed a check for her husband, Larry.

A member of the House committee on human rights, Ragsit said they were strongly considering the acceptance of a new list of claimants—those who failed to submit their names.

"The committee is finalizing the report on Compensation bill of which progressive party-list lawmakers are authors. There are also in the list are told to apply and submit their cases," she said.

Ragsit said she, too, had mixed feelings.

"I felt elated to a certain degree since after decades, there is an acknowledgment of the fight the victims. The amount is merely symbolic for it cannot fully compensate for the agony, the loss of life, torture and incarceration. On the other hand, I feel sad because many of the claimants have died and did not see this memorable day and many are also still awaiting their claims," she said.

MAYOR MAITA EJERCITO
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Theme: "Turismo Sa Pagdiriwang ng Pagkakaisa at Kaunlaran Ng Pagsanjan"

PAGSANJAN, the Tourist Capital of Laguna and the Home of Our Lady of Guadalupe is steadfast in its effort to maintain its rightful place in the tourism industry as the premier world-class tourist destination in the Philippines through the annual "PAGSANJAN BANGKERO FESTIVAL" slated this year on March 29, 2011 to April 2, 2011.

Now on its tenth year, under the dynamic leadership and keen supervision of the newly-elected Action Lady of Pagsanjan MAYOR MAITA JAVIER - EJERCITO, the "PAGSANJAN BANGKERO FESTIVAL", which is annually held in the month of April, sets a precedent to other towns with its colorful and impressive line-up of events on land and on the river. These include a vibrant variety of competitions like the traditional boat racing (Regatta), floral float parade & competition bundled with street dancing, drum and lyre brass bands, trade fairs, painting contest, cookfest, quiz bee, video challenge, diwata ng Dotha Pascuala Cave costume contest, tricycle fantasy float parade competition, singing and modern dance contests, BANDIgmaan (Battle of the Bands), marathon, triathlon olympics, Boat Decorated Banca, Boat Garage and Photo Shoots, "Palarong Bangkero", world-class performances featuring the Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines, and the Sining Katutubo Dance Assembly (Official Cultural Dance Troupe of Laguna). There is also the annual search for "Ginoong Bangkero" and "Lakan at Binibining Pagsanjan" and the Fireworks Display.

The five-day celebration is inspired by Pagsanjan's beloved and miraculous Patroness Our Lady of Guadalupe and dedicated to all the "Bangkeros" of Pagsanjan. "Bangkero" is the Tagalog word for the boatsman and skilled "boatman" who spend most of their time on the river. They are the natural navigators and tour guides who expertly paddle, and bodily lift a "banca" or "canoe" upstream against the strong current between the gorge and canyon walls amidst a pristine panorama of lush, virgin forest, and then maneuver downstream through the wild rapids and rocks at breathtaking speed. They safely steer the tourist's banoas in an exhilarating, spine-tingling, adrenaline-pumping shooting-the-rapids experience which makes it truly an exciting two-hour boat-ride experience of a lifetime, beginning from either the Bumbungan River or the Balanac River going towards the magnificent and globally-famous Pagsanjan Falls.

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and the UNITED BOATMEN ASSOCIATION OF PAGSANJAN

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Calabarzon execs brace for layoffs

By Marisar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Filipino officials are seeing both opportunity and loss in the wake of the devastation wrought on Japan by a 9-magnitude earth quake and a massive tsunami that flattened its northeastern areas.

In the Calabarzon region, labor officials said they were preparing for layoffs following a series of meetings with executives of Japanese companies operating in the region.

Ricardo Martinez, labor regional director, said based on initial meetings with Japanese executives, operations of Japanese-owned factories in Calabarzon were likely to suffer because of the lack of parts from Japan that are put together in assembly plants in the Philippines.

Martinez said the supply of parts from the mother companies of factories operating in Calabarzon was likely to last only until May.

Layoffs, shorter work

He said the Japanese companies were likely to resort to shorter work hours, and even layoffs, should the supply of parts from Japan stop.

Toru Japanese firms, he said, have already reported plans to overwork workers. One of these is Nippon Synthetic Inc., an automotive wiring harness firm in Lipa, Batangas, which plans to lay off 350 workers.

Martinez said another Japanese firm in Laguna plans to reduce the number of its workers, but he wasn't provide details until the plans were put in place.

At least 100 Japanese firms operate in Calabarzon, several of them manufacturers of car parts and electronic chips.

Sought for comment, the city mayors of Sta. Rosa and Biñan in Laguna, who have jurisdiction over the Laguna Technopark, said they have yet to see the impact of the Japan earthquake on the local economy.

Effects on food trade

"In fact, the effect we see is on the food industry," said Biñan City Mayor Marlyn Alonte-Naguiat, who also runs a branch of a Japanese restaurant in the city.

A radiation scare has kept people away from Japanese restaurants and food.

Sta. Rosa City Mayor Arlene Nazareno declined to comment on the woes of Japanese car firms in her area until she has met with the firms' management.

Tagged as the Philippines' "motor city," Sta. Rosa houses three large Japanese-owned automotive companies—Toyota, Nissan and Honda.

In Tagaytay City, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala on Thursday said the government was bracing for a possible slowdown of agricultural exports to Japan.

Expected results

"We should expect that," said Alcala. He said the sector that would be most affected would be the banana industry in the Davao province.

The Philippines supplies 91 percent of Japan's banana demand.

"We're saddened by the disaster that had befallen Japan," said Alcala.

He said while the Philippine agriculture sector would suffer from the effects of the disaster, other sectors are bound to benefit from it.

In Davao City, city trade chief Twinkle Dizon said rebuilding efforts would boost the Philippines' labor industry.

"It would possibly boost the construction sector and the increase in volume of exports of construction materials," he said.

Japanese housing for a garment plant task of rebuilding infrastructure and industries that were destroyed by the quake and tsunami. *Primetime 2, Line, with a report from Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

A WOMAN and child reunite on the Philippines from Japan following the 9-magnitude quake and 100-ft tsunami in Japan's northeastern coast.

Cagayan court stops raids, closure of bet stations

A JUDGE in Cagayan stopped Games and Amusements Board (GAB) from closing jai alai betting stations operated by Meridien Vitra Gaming Corp. in Metro Manila.

Judge Lorenzo Maravilla, of the Aparri regional trial court, issued the 17 days (or until April 8) GAB "and all persons acting under its control and direction, including the chairman of the Philippine National Police ... from stopping the gaming operations of the plaintiff [Meridien] or to restrain the operations of its betting stations in [their] previous condition."

On March 3, GAB issued cease and desist orders against Meridien betting stations in Metro Manila.

It cited the need to regulate the company's operations since Meridien acquired its franchise from the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

Manalo cursed the ruling "in light of the impending Davao reinforcement." Inserted from Meridien's operations since it

INQUIRER

OPINION

Last card

EDITORIAL

TILL THE end, there may be no escape—unless a wrinkle happens. Beyond the realm of prayer, three of our countrymen will face the cruelest needle in less than a week. This time, a reprieve and further delay of their executions seem more befuddled.

Their names and stories must be familiar by now: Sally Villanueva, Ramon Credo and Elizabeth Batain. Three Filipinos, everyday folk, who left country and family as overseas workers to seek a better life for their loved ones. They could be any one of us—save for one awful twist. Somehow they become involved with international drug syndicates and soon transformed into drug mules.

And they were caught red-handed, their illicit cargoes discovered in China. In 2009, Villanueva, Credo and Batain were found guilty of drug trafficking and sentenced to death via lethal injection. Their executions were originally scheduled last February—Villanueva and Credo in Xiamen, and Batain in Shenzhen. However, word about their executions had gone out earlier, and Filipinos reacted in uproar: we wanted the three OFWs saved somehow. The Aquino administration was spurred to make an attempt to negotiate with the Chinese for their lives.

The Chinese at first refused to cede any ground. China, after all, is known widely to be hard on drug traffickers, and to them, Villanueva, Credo and Batain were just three more convicts to be dealt with like all the others that they are Filipinos did not change anything.

But a desperate, last-minute mission to Beijing by Vice President Jejomar Binay managed to move the Chinese and the executions were stayed indefinitely. The result of Binay's trip was remarkable—but, alas, also short-lived.

After a delay of more than a month, the specter of death for Villanueva, Credo and Batain has come stomping back with even heavier, more dreadful steps. On March 30, the three will be executed as decreed by a court, in accordance with Chinese law. It seems there is nothing left to do but pray to keep alive our hopes of saving them.

Though not everyone has given up just yet. Binay will send one more letter. "The Vice President believes that while [the executions have] not yet been carried out, there is still hope. He wants to exhaust all possible means," Presidential Spokesperson Ednna Lucierda told reporters.

In a way, the Aquino administration knew it would come down to this. "Certainly, we would prefer a more positive outcome, but we're realistic about the situation," Lucierda added. "We are aware that the agreement last time was only for the postponement of the executions." The death sentence may no longer be legal here in our country, but it still is in China, under whose laws Villanueva, Credo and Batain were found guilty and sentenced to death. The Philippine government cannot argue for them to be treated any differently. And it would be highly unreasonable to expect—more so, to demand—that government would take this course of action—plea for clemency—every time a Filipino accused of being a drug mule is slated to be executed. There are hundreds of other OFWs in jails and prisons in China, the Middle East and other countries. It would be unfair—and the government can't keep playing this elementary card for each of them.

We do sympathize with the three OFWs and their families and we, too, like many other Filipinos and the Aquino administration, continue to hope for a miracle. But beyond this, the government must now turn its attention to the other Filipinos in prison abroad on charges of drug trafficking or facing death sentences. The Department of Foreign Affairs may not have been able to save those three, but perhaps, the others may yet be spared the same fate if it can provide them with lawyers and ensure that they get a fair trial. And for humanitarian considerations, earnest efforts should be made to link them with their families, if need be. These may be faceless Filipinos, they may be behind bars, but they too deserve to be given some glimmer of hope.

And if we must reiterate what we have suggested in this space before, government should exert more effort to prevent any more of our countrymen from falling to with the drug rings. They must tighten security at the airports, find a way to uncover drug mules about to leave the country, and tonally smash the syndicates behind them.

We know now why Villanueva, Credo and Batain are in this desperate situation. It will be up to us to do all we can to make sure that they will be the last of us to pass this way.

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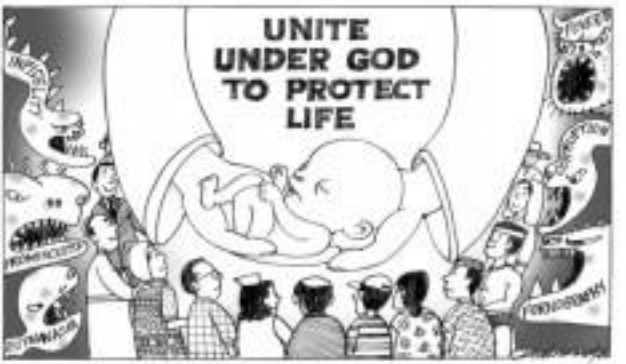


Marcos and memory

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE CORPSE of Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, has attended to a family museum in Batac, Ilocos Norte. Imelda Marcos, once a member of the House of Representatives, insists that she will allow nothing less than transcontinental air transport for husband's return to Manila. More than 200 of her fellow representatives have signed a resolution asking President Aquino, whose father was murdered by the regime, to authorize the corpse's burial at the nation's Libingan ng mga Bayani.

This congressional action seems to work not merely to legitimize (albeit belatedly) the attempt to rewrite history, to refine, it restores the meaning of the term people power overnight that ended 14 years of the dictatorship in February 1986. It is perhaps not a coincidence that this congressional initiative is being launched in the wake of the 31st anniversary of the Edsa revolution. They're saying the worst, that this Ferdinand Marcos Jr is no ex-president yet!

Note that the Marcos family never expressed any remorse over the abuses and crimes of the regime. Greater, they do not seek forgiveness. Not a single Marcos has been asked for written testimonial against the Filipino people. Yet, instead of viewing this as the achievement of sheer lawyers in a dysfunctional justice system, they treat it as a vindication of their innocence. Hence, their main Ferdinand Marcos re-take an honored place among the nation's heroes. Clearly they are not asking the nation to forget the past; they want this current to recur in remembrance of the past.

This newer narrative is radical in setting of our collective memory. We cannot recover what we have without slighting the remembering him was a mistake. My current give him a hero's burial without signifying at the same time that the thousands who were made to disappear or killed by his henchmen deserved to be remembered as victims of repression and terrorism.

Marcos today without spitting on the courage of those who fought his dictatorial rule. Those who think that this issue is all about laying a corpse to rest in overseas corner of the country are mistaken. A program of work-making that aims to supplant memory has already been set in motion. It is not gone is not the burial, but the resurrection of history.

Unfortunately, culture is set into rule of those who signed the resolution. Indeed, our religious traditions presage on collective and college. Others and sometimes individuality salvation are being separated in order to either bury Bonifacio at the Libingan ng mga Bayani the more worthy thing the nation had do. By burning on the request to bury him in a cemetery reserved for war veterans, the Marcos family and their congressional supporters are trying to simplify what is in reality a complex decision filled with many ramifications. For now, we are being cued to think simply of Marcos as the issuer was here who deserved to die in the company of his World War II comrades. Whatever you might say of this, the request is meant for people to forget that Marcos fought for his country during the war. There is no reference to what he did to the Filipino people after he placed the country under martial law in 1972.

It is natural for us to feel resentful when somebody has wronged us. But to view our response via ceremonies and as manifest this by not being empathic in our actions. We call this forgiveness, but two things must be said in this regard. One, we must forgive not because we excuse the offense committed against us, but because we don't want to be the prisoners of hate. Thus, we view forgiveness as something we owe to ourselves. Two, we may forgive, but forgiving does not require that we also forget. "There is no general duty to forget, nor even is there any universal sense of duty to remember, since who we are depends on our not forgetting things that happened and that are important to our lives," writes the Jewish philosopher Avishai Margalit.

In his brilliant book, "The ethics of memory," Margalit explains that instead of the Holocaust, only the urgency of someone who wishes to overcome resentment over past hurts without forgetting the past. "What ought to be blotted out," he says, "is the intensity of the emotions in the past—not the knowing it, nor is the sense of remembering it."

If a society were administrative, it may choose like a majority of our people have forgotten Marcos. But those who suffered personal injury under his regime may not be inclined to do so. It is up to us—their close the burden of his presence, might mean locally. The ethics of forgiveness is a very demanding one. It continually as to forgive, even when there is no repentance, as a duty to ourselves. A administration as no longer the issuer, since we the suffering are uncertain with the past, even as we continue to remember the past. Can we cast aside the deep injury done to us and the nation, and forgive, as we say go on with our lives—without blotting out the past? And, assuming we have forgiven Marcos, does this change us as human beings with a better society?

My view, like Margalit's, is that we must learn to forgive, but we must not forget. We must continue to remember not because we cannot leave the past behind, but because, living in the present, we have a duty to—and it is that the ordinary of autocratic rule, no ever again take over in our national psyche. To forget Marcos is one thing, but to honor him with a hero's burial as an act our people that it's all right for autocratic adventurers in the future to trample upon democracy and usher in terror for himself.

***

public.lives@gmail.com

If today . . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE TEXTED me this message: "While seated, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. While doing this, draw the number 6 in the air with your right hand. Try it."

***

I tried it and I had fun. If you did not, I would understand your hesitance. For sure, nobody we just do not do what we are told to do or just follow a command from someone we don't know.

***

In today's Gospel (John 8, 1-12), Jesus asked his scribes from a Samaritan woman. He was a cruel stranger, and His request, this order was some kind of an impossible. For Israel to adhere was the law of stoning to death, which eventually led to oppression, amusement and execution.

***

God takes us wherever we are, whoever we are. It is not as if we have to be saints others or sinners before God. It is not that before His glance touches us, God's call is universal, every person, and for everyone.

***

God's call is not always pleasant. It is a call for change, and change often becomes painful. Israel needs and giving up the scars of the world which we are comfortable and familiar with. Who looked go to the deep when life is fun in the beach? Who wished rise up in dawn, when one can enjoy more hours of sleep? Who or all be glad what to do when I can be the captain of my soul? It is because God is calling, that's why.

***

In the seminary we had a classmate who put on his door a big sign that read, "DO NOT DISTURB." Right across his room, another classmate put on his door a big sign that read, "PLEASE DISTURB." Which sign for God and for people do you have in your life? How open are you, and how far would you go to allow God's and other people's "disturbances" and "interferences"?

***

Whenever I go to the dentist, the first thing

St. Ruby Monteflores would tell me is "Open!" Surely dentist can be trained if we open to the dentist and if agents aren't known for the circumstances. The same applies to "Wash down" the water in open and allow ourselves to be questioned and corrected of our sins, falsehood, biases and pride. Again, humility and honesty are the keys to prevent whatever form of decay.

***

What if the Samaritan women refused or readily walked away from Jesus as we often do whenever we are confronted by real-life challenges and situations? Then she, like us, would have missed out encountering Him, the opportunity to grow and become better persons. It is our call. It is our choice. We become what we decide. We stop what we seem to be.

***

"If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart." God calls us again and again. Let us not waste our time regretting our failure to respond to God in the past, or imagining that your tomorrow when we finally will respond to God. God's call is for today. It is the here and now.

***

In the debate about the RH bill, God is speaking. Are we listening to Him? Amidst the din, ranging from exercises, affirmations, conversations, and even personality squabbles, hear our legislators, on bended knees, ask for guidance and direction in their decisions.

***

Take note that the story of the Samaritan woman could not only have conversion, but also with her mission. She, who initially rejected, soon ended up proclaiming Jesus. We who claim to be followers of Jesus must also lead others to follow Jesus.

***

I am writing this column in the Holy Land. About 3 million Christian pilgrims come here every year to visit the very places where He resided, began, ended his message of peace, mercy and love. And yet, in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and in Calvary where He died, there is division among Christian groups and other denominations. With all the differences among us, let us be open to the voice of God, allowing Christian groups and other denominations. With all the differences among us, let us be open to the voice of God, allowing Him to change our attitudes, prejudices, beliefs and convictions, as we call a long way from Jesus' wish that the time will come "when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."

***

If today you encounter God and hear Him speaking, harden not your heart. Listen. Really listen. May we see Him God's call and God's reminder. Like Mary who said "Yes" to God's call and invitation, may we be truly open, obedient and submissive to God's will. May God's call be stronger than anyone's call, and discernible call. Amen!

***

Think about this. "Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with." (Peter Marshall)

***

We wish to congratulate the academic artist Ruben Reinhard another school year. We wish all of us to complete our goals. We can reach our ideals helped clients. Life goes on, and we all must move on. As the "Desiderata" so beautifully puts it: "With all its chaos, drudgery and broken dreams, it's still a beautiful world!"

***

Please remember yesterday is dead and gone. And tomorrow that never comes. So, do your best in the present and so God you know the rest.

***

A moment with the Lord:

Lord of today: I hear your voice, please help me not to harden my heart. Amen.

After 35 years, still languishing

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Pangalangan

THE BREAKDOWN of the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank's corruption and unstable government, northern Japan has evoked public debates on the feasibility and wisdom of resurrecting the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). These debates all remind us that, despite the overwhelming fear it, our impoverished people dutifully paid or continue to pay for nuclear investment. As a retired jurist, I am in turn sadly reminded that, despite decades-old charges of corruption, bribery and unfair crimes stemming the BNPP, no one has yet been convicted or even charged for the frauds.

BNPP story. The BNPP was constructed at the cost of $2 billion during the martial law years. Before Cory Aquino succeeded to the presidency, it was abandoned for various reasons. Up to the present, it remains inoperable and appears to be leaking radioactivity.

In August 1973, barely a year after martial law was declared, Westinghouse Bataan Inc. incorporated the National Power Corporation (NPC) to "procure, construct and thereafter operate, maintain and commercial operation of the nuclear power plant in Morong, Bataan."

Several companies—including Westinghouse Electric Company and its associate, Weste B. Bun—obtained interests in the project. Morong Bataan was then known to be an area in, to quote the Supreme Court, "go-between with Manila. Dante was known to be the late president's close personal associate, whose wife was then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos' first cousin and the Marcos family's personal protector."

On April 28, 1974, Westinghouse sent Marcos, through Dante, a letter committing to turnkey proposal. Most design of the letter and without public bidding, Marcos rubber-stamped NPC of his preference for Westinghouse. In a Cabinet meeting on June 6, 1974, Marcos exasperatedly ordered his choice of Westinghouse and authorized NPC General Manager Hermon Roxas to sign a letter of commitment to Westinghouse for the supply and nuclear power plant.

Under the objections of three key officials—Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Executive Assistant Blandino Mendoza and Finance Minister—saying that the Westinghouse proposal was "highly onerous and disadvantageous to the government," Marcos insisted through the process. The contract was signed 21 years ago on Feb. 6, 1976.

Criminal charges. A decade later, after Cory Aquino took over Malacañang, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) charged Dante (and others) with violations of our criminal laws. After another decade, on May 31, 1997, then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto dismissed the charges "for lack of prima facie evidence."

Ironically, in an action brought by the Philippines against Westinghouse, the District Court of New Jersey (USA)...after examining the same records—dismissed in October—ruled on Sept. 16, 1991 that "there exist sufficient evidence of bribery."

The PCGG hailed Desierto on reversion to the Supreme Court (PCGG v Desierto), which on July 12, 2005 dismissed the "Order of the Ombudsman" "to file in the proper court the appropriate criminal charge(s)." I shall never forget that well-fought case because I testified as a character during our mental deliberations. The justice to whom the case was raffled ruled against Desierto. But after a majority in the Court voted with me, I became the decisive justice (or penmen).

The ponencia detailed the many pieces of economic and documentary evidence showing why Desierto abused his discretion in dismissing the charges. Among those were almost a hundred pages of affidavits of top model officials of both Westinghouse (and Bechtel Bow) and Swiss Management and Investment Corp. (Dante's outfit) showing "probable cause" for the crimes charged.

Dead bones still good meat. As directed by the Supreme Court, Conrado Manalo (Desierto's successor) thereafter filed criminal charges in the Sandiganbayan against Dante, Roxas now, however, the case is still languishing in the anti-graft court for various reasons. For one, the Sandiganbayan could not, for a long while, acquire jurisdiction over the accused because he could not be located. He allegedly migrated to Russia. For another, several witnesses, especially the American officials of Westinghouse, could not be found either. Time has devious ways of devouring evidence and witnesses as well as prosecutors.

With the election of Cory Aquino's son to the presidency, that long-delayed case should find the light of day. However, President Aquino's anti-corruption program is itself still mired in a whirlpool of delay and inaction.

Without alluding to anyone in particular, the moral lesson is that, despite the well-intentioned reforms of our 1987 Constitution to grant greater powers, independence and prosecutorial to our constitutional offices, it takes management and patience to overcome the barnacles of corruption and to root the drip of rust through the system suffering the anxiety.

One thing is sure here the institutions and laws to fight graft. Another thing it is to have strong-willed men and women who accept their responsibilities and endure these fates. Moreover, it is when the men and meeting capture these powerful offices. Then, even rebels-finished presidents would find narrow difficulty to carry out their mandates, despite the enemies and power-seeking.

Will we ever find the right combination of good laws and good men to lift our people from the ditches of corruption and poverty?

• • •

Comments: my website at chiefjustice.ph, e-mail: lawyer@hotmail.com

To serve or to observe?

BOB RICHARD TEODORO Mercado had almost 250 priests in service with the following anecdotes. A religious sister stayed for a few weeks in an urban poor community. With each stone of abuse poverty she encountered, she would inevitably say, "Kawawa naman!" (What a pity!) Identifying upon a naked, non-starved infant, she blurted out, "Kawawa naman!" On serving some out of school teenagers loitering in the neighborhood, she exclaimed, "Kawawa naman!" Seeing a bloated corpse by a river bank, she cried, "Kawawa naman!"

COMMENTARY

Roberto E. N. Rivera, S.J.
John J. Carmichael
on Church and Social Issues

The teenagers (grown, complicated with the nun's reactions, asked her: "Sir sister, what do you plan to do about all this poverty in our community?" The good sister replied: "Well, you know, I came here not to serve, but to observe." And the humanagers rapidly overheard, "Kawawa naman!"

Bishop Bacani's story as such leaves, not only because of the unfortunate of the well-meaning but rather naive nun. Surely this priest also saw to the vain portrait of their own shortcomings in looking also the impoverished in their respective communities. The priests serve, in effect, laughing (perhaps nervously) at themselves.

This year, the synod assembled the recently established College Diocesanorum Congregation San Carlos Seminary in Makati City organized as part of the Church's commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP II). Convened in 1991, PCP II sought to provide the Church in the Philippines (and the Church at large) with a vision for the new millennium. One of the chief goals set by the council was that the Philippine Church should be a "Church of the Poor." Thus the congress was an opportunity for the clergy to examine their own individual commitments to the disadvantaged, as well as to assess how the Philippine Church as a whole has lived to fulfilling her mandate to be a "Church of the Poor."

In its concluding statement, PCP II expressed its sentiments within the vein of pastors in fulfilling this mandate. "The Church of the Poor" will mean that the pastors and other Church leaders will be professionally poor and will relate to those who are poor, and will generously share of their own resources in order to alleviate their poverty and make them recognize the love of the Lord for them despite their poverty. Pastors and other Church leaders should, in search for fairness of pastoral instruction, be directly knowledgeable of the life situations of the people they serve" (PCP II, 125).

The humbling statements among the clergy gathered in the congress was that the Philippine Church was nowhere near the level of a "Church of the Poor," Or to paraphrase Bishop Bacani's anecdote, the priests had to admit that they were largely observing the poor rather than serving them.

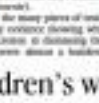
Starting with the basics, however, the congress examined the very way in which priests observed or understood the problem of poverty. Concerns worldwide pointed clearly at the "new faces of poverty" priests encountered in their ministry. Responsibilities from clergy and laity interacting in communities of basic ecclesial communities, peoples' groups, informal settlers, indigenous peoples affected by climate change, and other sectors were invited to enlighten the clergy on the challenges of serving the marginalized in the 21st century.

One of the highlights of the congress was an adoption of a novel analytical tool to examine these new manifestations of poverty. Fittingly summarized in the acronym "SEE," the framework helped the clergy to observe poverty with "new eyes," the better to serve the poor.

This analytical tool involves looking first at the prevailing "issues" in the community. These issues concern matters of marginalization within society. Next, it entails examining "resources" to see how the presence or absence of material goods and control over them can aggravate or alleviate poverty. It also requires looking at "intelligibility," i.e., the schools of thought that provide the lens for interpreting the world and providing points of inspiration. Finally, the framework recommends an examination of "paths," of the possibilities of changing configurations of ideas, resources and intelligibility to enable steps so as to effect societal change.

In the end, however, the priests were made to realize that these new ways of observing will be useless if they do not translate into concrete service. Bishop (an Emeritus Teddy, in his closing exhortation to the congress, wryly pointed out that since priests are ordained, they often need "downhill to accompanied, and not only to double for one to an ordinance-ing light by many orders. Perhaps the Clergy Discernment Congress priests to a subdued the rising responses on the part of the Church to the challenges of the times. The first step is meaningful service involves an inward turn toward self-assessment, toward a humble examination of faults and failures. Then, perhaps, the Church should not only have an old tradition with new eyes, as she now ways of understanding and alleviating poverty may emerge. Lastly, the Church should be sufficiently disturbed by what she sees, so that from simply observing she may shift to serving the poor and the marginalized, so as to become truly a "Church of the Poor."

A place for children's wellness



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

UPENDING went to the public to the Alfredo Maceda Cancer Wing (AMCW) of the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

The facility opened after the late father of multi-awarded actor and TV host Edu Manzano, the former Optical Media Board (OMB) chairman and beloved running mate of presidential candidate Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro.

Edu and his co-emcees Isabel Adriat Manzano did not die due to cancer. But the children's cancer wing, said his son, was named after him to honor his love for children, and in a way of "turning my passion in helping kids even though he's no longer around."

While Edu was growing up in San Francisco, he enrolled, his father worked as a counselor at the Hannah Boys Center in Sonoma, catering to "wayward kids" in conflict with the law. "My father would sometimes single out the boys who he thought showed promise," recalls Edu. "And he would bring them home to help out with the chores around the house, where they would bond with us."

It was Edu's friend and juvenile doctor Dr. Mary Gomez, who is head of Surgery at the PCMC, suggested that Edu help set up an out-patient clinic for children with cancer. Since cancer treatment for children with cancer is an environment conducive to their speedy healing, while their families find it hard to travel to the provinces, it is more convenient for children with cancer to undergo chemotherapy and other treatments.

"The cleanliness and atmosphere of the ward are all aimed toward making chemotherapy and blood transfusions less traumatic for the kids," adds Edu. "These children fight through pain every single day. The least we could do is help make it a bit easier for them. It may, perhaps, help the pain that they'll need an extra push for the disease."

Although it is located in a government hospital, the AMCW caters mainly to paying patients, although the fees charged will be made affordable, with a portion of the proceeds subsidizing the treatment of the PCMC's charity patients. It is our way of blazing two trails with one cause, or rather, several trails. It provides much-needed services for children with cancer in an environment conducive to their speedy healing, while making it possible for the rest of children whose parents cannot afford to pay for their treatment. And it honors the memory of a man who spent a good part of his life building other troubled children, while offering that man's son a chance to cure to the public, even if not formally or officially.

• • •

THANKS to small ambassador Zvi Rapp, who is elected to watch the play "A Child of My Own" as executed by the Gallopade Theater Guild, the cinema theater organization of the La Salle University.

"A Child of My Own" is written by award-winning playwright Israel Horovitz based on a book by Anna Lisbeth.

The play tells the story of a group of strangers—different from one another in terms of civil status, careers, age, personal circumstances—but united in a single-minded pursuit of motherhood and coping with its challenges.

While motherhood—and widowhood and the search for meaning—are universal concerns that women around the world, it gains poignancy in Israel where young men joining mandatory military service are required to donate their sperm in a sperm bank to ensure their lineage continues even after their death. This is because life is sacred, and not just in the religious sense, and sometimes military is something everyone must live with.

• • •

AND so we get to know women like the doctor who specializes in assisted fertility while confronting issues of conception, the right...and threats...have resulted to single adopted daughter. There is also "Paula," a lesbian who seeks comfort after the break-up of her last relationship by having a child. But she must cope not just with the uncertainties of her mother but more especially with the disapproval and rejection of her father, a man of conservative values.

The play likewise examines the choice of complicated emotions when couples seek to separate the sexual from the personal, the physical from the emotional, the pleasure from the responsibility, expectations and disappointments, egoism and doubt, to astronaut, regardless of prosperity or political setting.

The Turkish chimera

WORLD VIEW

F. Stephen Larrabee

WASHINGTON—THE dramatic revolts in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have acted as a catalyst for a broader Arab awakening that has fundamentally shaken the Middle East. The old political order that has been in place since the late 1970s. While it is too early to predict the final outcome, several important regional implications are already beginning to emerge.

First, the revolts are a double-edged sword for Iran. The Iranian regime may benefit from the ouster or weakening of pro-Western Arab leaders and regimes in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, but Iran's initial encouragement of the democratic uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt came with a string in the form of unofficial calls for an Arab Spring. Iran's public since their own population began to call for the same democratic rights, suggesting that Iran could face stronger pressures for democracy and political change over the medium and long term.

Second, the upheavals threaten to leave Israel more isolated. Pro-Western governments, Israel has in most important regional partner, Indeed, given the strong democratic to Israel's existence with Turkey, Mubarak's downfall has deprived Israel of its two most democratic allies in the region. While Egypt's interim military regime has pledged to adhere to the 1979 peace agreement, a new, more democratic government could adopt a different attitude.

Third, the implications for democratic change have significantly bolstered Turkey's regional influence. While the United States and the European Union initially hedged their bets, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan acted aggressively with the international community. Erdogan's success—shows that enhanced Turkey's prestige among the democratic opposition in Egypt and elsewhere in the region.

Many Arabs regard the brand of moderate Islam espoused by Turkey's ruling parties and Islamophobia. Party (AKP) as a possible model for the Middle East. Since Turks have begun to see things the same way. In a recent interview Erdogan stressed that Turkey would be a "source of inspiration" for countries in the Middle East, because it has shown close Islam and democracy can coexist harmoniously.

In this glimpse, the Turkish model—with its emphasis on negotiation and democracy—has elicited concern appeal in a region burdened by corrupt, autocratic, incompetent and inefficient governments. But Turkey's historical experience and political evolution differ in important ways from those of Arab countries. As a result, its model cannot easily be transplanted.

Turkish Islam is more moderate and pluralistic than elsewhere in the Middle East and, more at least the late Ottoman period, Turkey has sought to fuse Islam and Westernization. This difference stems from Turkey's more secular tradition compared to the Middle East, and has enabled it to avoid the deep dichotomies, tensions and violence that have characterized political modernization elsewhere in the region.

Turkey's success with AKP's moderate brand of Islam was largely in response to internal factors, particularly the cumulative effects of several decades of democratization and socioeconomic transformation, which gave rise to a new entrepreneurial class in Anatolia that is economically liberal but socially and politically conservative. This class, one of the AKP's main pillars of electoral support, does not exist elsewhere in the Middle East.

Moreover, the Turkish model owes much to the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, founder of the Turkish Islamist movement. Erdogan's charismatic leadership and political dexterity transformed the traditional Islamist movement into a modern center-based on Turkish nationalism.

But, in transforming Turkey, Atatürk did not begin entirely from scratch. The process of Islamization was significantly advanced by Ottoman reforms in the late 19th century under the Tanzimat during the period of the Tanzimat. While the Kemalists sought a radical break with the Ottoman past, there were important elements of continuity between the Ottoman and Kemalist periods. Both were elitist and state-driven.

These important pre-conditions do not exist in the Arab Middle East. Most countries in the region have very weak political parties and institutions and traditions on which to build a democratic political order. They also lack a vibrant civil society.

Ultimately, the best countries do not have the benefit of Turkey's tradition of moderate Islam or its strong democratic institutions and Western orientation. As a result, the prologue of the old power structures in many Middle East countries is likely to be accompanied by considerable political turmoil and violence. *Project Syndicate*

F. Stephen Larrabee, a former member of the National Security Council, holds the Distinguished Chair in European Security at the RAND Corp.

THEY SAID

Dark politics

"I had hoped that our institutions in the primary would not allow such an injustice and vote in accordance with wisdom and good conscience, thereby saving partisan lives. I was wrong. Dark politics reigned supreme."

—Ombudsman Ma. Lourdes Sereno in after the non-debating acts by the House of Representatives to impeach her

Remarkable legend

"Though her fate is distressing to those of us who held her in deep ecological esteem, we will always be inspired by her enduring contribution to our world. Her remarkable life body of work in film, her ongoing success as a businesswoman, and her fierce and relentless advocacy in the fight against HIV/AIDS make us all incredibly proud of what she accomplished."

—Michael Hirsh, on the death of her mother, legendary Hollywood actress Elizabeth Taylor

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TALK of the TOWN

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Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

SURVIVAL KITS

Preparing for disasters

By Erika Sauler

A PARACORD, a Swiss knife, an insect-repellent and a multitool knife in the first thing you should have when disaster hits, according to an elite rescuer.

"It's not water first. After three days without water, one will die," said Ted Esguerra, officer in charge of the Crisis Guard's elite medical and technical rescue team.

"If I have a knife, I have high chances of acquiring water, food and security," he told the Inquirer in a recent interview.

Esguerra, who also chairs the Search and Rescue Unit Foundation, has been keeping a tight schedule from one disaster drill to another after a long earthquake-ravaged repose and New Zealand.

"I'm concerned and, in the same time disappointed. Why only now?" said Esguerra who specialized in disaster medicine and has been advocating a culture of safety for years.

Unfortunately, "Filipinos are very stubborn," Esguerra said. "There are some who refuse to leave their homes having even if the flood waters are rising."

Family kit

"Your margin of survival is equal to your percentage of preparation," Esguerra stressed.

"Your preparation doesn't need to be expensive," he added.

In fact, one can put together a personal go-bag from materials in your home or from your food storage. [See sidebar.]

Esguerra's home is an arsenal of high-grade rescuer's gadgets and redundant family kits that he prepared years ago.

He stressed that luxurious items of the basic things that families should keep for emergency purposes.

The stock includes bottled water and compact food. Esguerra keeps chocolate, meruggo, honey and canned goods in the family's kit.

Mungga, honey

Chocolate is high in calories which will give you energy. "Preparing mungo, go-to-grieve water for it's rich in protein, highly available and cheap, and has a shelf life of about one year. You can also set aside some to become sugar sprouts," Esguerra explained.

Honey, on the other hand, doesn't spoil naturally. "Keep honey for a long time and it's still honey," he said. Aside from being nutritious, honey can also be used to disinfect wounds.

If you want to stock on canned goods, choose the variety types like tuna and sardines in pull-tab cans, Esguerra advised. For wasn't easily get thirsty and it's easier to open.

Keep a tarpaulin, big plastic or rain poncho to serve as shelters. "Take put a stick in the center and you have a tent," he said.

Radio

A battery-powered radio with AM frequency is important so get alerts and information on weather updates (where storms and rescuers converge). A crank radio costs P500-P700 in hardware stores. You would also need a map to find your way. "Where a disaster hits, most landmarks will be damaged," Esguerra said.

It's also important to keep signaling devices like flashlight, whistle, mirror and reflector vest.

Pack quick-dry clothes, like jerseys, because they won't need for several days.

Include diapers or sanitary napkins in your first aid kit, they can serve as towels or gauze. Condoms can be used to secure electronic gadgets and cameras, too.

Water 'purifier'

Esguerra said you can also use Betadine to purify water. Put four drops of Betadine in a liter of water and leave it for 30 minutes. "You now have drinkable water. It has a certain taste, but at least the organisms are dead," he said. (This is not advisable for pregnant women.)

Zip locks or empty plastic bottles can be used as storage for important documents, like passport, marriage and birth certificates, and paper money. Esguerra also keeps a family picture. "If something happens to me, they'll know who I am and who my family is."

For better be armed with duct tape as it sticks on most surfaces. Esguerra has demonstrated on television how to seal his house with duct tape in case of radiation threat.

He also showed the listeners how a piece of tape tied around the soles of a pair of pants stuffed with empty plastic bottles can become a body bag and a floating device.

"They called me paranoid, Chamorro (no, gadget boy' ... My first enemy? My wife. Until we were hit by (Tropical Storm) Ondoy. That's when she understood," Esguerra said.

"The essence of preparation should correspond with the hazards in your location," he said.

He called on the government to decentralize rescue and aid there at lower-tier institutional planning.

Esguerra, who is affiliated with various local and international groups of physicians, environmentalists and humanitarian workers, also stressed that being a public servant was a vocation.

"For the right people, I'm not asking for the best people, just the right people in the right positions. Then is good governance," Esguerra said. "Are people assigned to disaster response departments trained to save lives?"

Disaster preparedness at the community level starts with informing the people of the risks and hazards in the area and conducting drills.

"When you are informed and subjected to a series of drills, you will be very disciplined," Esguerra said.

"Look at the Japanese, for the love of disasters (they did) not panic), because they had been told by their awareness and government officials. 'Do on the ring of fire, what choices do I have then be prepared for?'"

The Philippine archipelago also sits on the Ring of Fire, an arc of fault lines spanning the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions frequently occur.

As opposition physicians of the Bataan gay voyage is symbolic solution to call around the Philippines and neighboring countries using a presidential boat), Esguerra and the team taught disaster preparedness in the communities where the Hanjuan docked.

He noted that Cataguan province, a volcanic area, had a memorial evacuation zone. Evidence about also recuperated in the town of an evacuation plan long before the New Zealand and Japan earthquakes.

Preparedness at the institutional and community level, is undeniably vital to overcoming calamities. But it must be paired with our personal readiness because when disaster strikes, we're ultimately on our own. Real initial survival might have to depend on that knife or piece of tape in your bag.

SOME of the things in the Esguerra family kit: (clockwise from left) rain poncho, condoms, crank radio, diaper, duct tape, a bottle of honey, pull-tab canned good, a pack of meruggo and a reflector vest. At right, Dr. Ted Esguerra shows an instant floating device created from a piece of rope, a pair of pants and empty plastic bottles.

Lacson back, suddenly, to meet media tomorrow

From page A1

Uzal said the information came from an official report by the PNP Aviation Security Group.

Similar information was provided the Inquirer by Chief Supt. Oscar Nuyda, chief of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas.

Lacson was initially booked for Philippine Airlines' (PAL) Flight PR5064 bound for Manila at 6:05 last night, according to the Mactan-Cebu airport's public affairs office.

But documents at the airport's immigration section showed that Senator Lacson left the country on board Cathay Pacific Flight CX906 bound for Hong Kong at 5:40 p.m.

Immigration officer Jenny-ole Reyes cleared Lacson, who was carrying travel papers valid until April.

"He is no longer on the watchlist list. We treated him just like any other passenger," Tuplo said.

She could not confirm if the Hong Kong flight was a connecting flight from the United States.

Jessica Cruz of the Mactan airport's Public Affairs Office said a vehicle was waiting for Lacson at the airport.

Ching said Lacson's road to an undisclosed area in Cebu after arrival. He said his men merely monitored Lacson's presence in the city, which was standard procedure for PNO-7 during a visit of a ranking government official.

"That's in case they might need something, we can immediately respond," he said.

Ching said that PNP units in Cebu had no prior knowledge of Lacson's return and that he had not requested police escorts.

Asked why Lacson chose to land in Cebu, Ching said: "He once served as the city police director. Maybe he wants to see his friends in Cebu before going back to Manila."

The senator has special ties with Cebu.

He was chief of the Metro Cebu District Command from 1988 to 1993. The Cebu City Council was so pleased with his performance that he was declared adopted son of Cebu in 1991.

Looking good

Danny Almeda, chief of the Mt Allen Bogtok-allen Division, said Lacson left the airport after arrival shortly before 7 p.m. He looked "very good" and relaxed.

"He looked good, very rested and healthy," Almeda said. "If his arrival was an open thing and announced, I'm sure he is the number."

Prior to his arrival yesterday, Lacson was last seen at the departure area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in January 2010, shortly before a warrant was issued for his arrest in connection with the twin murders of political rubber Eduardo "Bobby" and Salvador "Dabby" Enrile.

Lacson is also wanted in the kidnapping of businessman Wilfredo Uy and his driver-bodyguard Rolando Duque in December 2000.

Uzal said the PNP would "continue to monitor Lacson's movements."

LACSON: No speaking fees

INQUIRER PHOTO

Homecoming good news for peers, bad news for Merci

By TJ Burgonio

NEWS) of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's homecoming yesterday was welcomed by his fellow senators, who said his return would be crucial in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano expressed hope. "We welcome him back and his presence ... It's no secret that every time Lim[] every senator resumes in an impeachment because you need two-thirds to convict."

Two-thirds of the 24 members of the court, or 16 senators, are required to convict an impeached official. Since there are only 23 senators now, an impeached official will need only eight votes to get acquitted.

Sen. Ralph Recto said Lacson's allies at the Senate was reopened and cleansed last week.

"It's now ready to be occupied," Sen. Ralph said of Room 506, which was closed down in October 2010.

"He is not a subject of an arrest warrant. But we put up an area and road security [plan] so we can monitor the senator's movements and activities in the city," Uzal said.

Asked why the PNP should check on Lacson's activities, Uzal replied: "It's for his own good. Our security arrangement is not just for him but for everyone."

Closure

Maintaining reports Lacson to pay the allegations against him to rest.

"He welcome the return of Sen. Ping Lacson so that he can put closure to the accusation involved against him," said Press Secretary Ernesto Abella.

Mr. Aquino insisted about Lacson's homecoming from the media, Lacsonia said.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said Lacson's return was "expected" in view of the ruling of the Court of Appeals (CA) that there was no reason to indict him in connection with the Ducer-Corbito murders.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Magtanggol Gatdula said Lacson's return means that the bureau could now move in on cigar chewers.

No charge, he's free

"With that ruling, we can now concentrate on other cases," Gatdula said. "So a really free. The bureau no longer has anything to do with him," Gatdula said.

Lacson's lawyer Alex Poblador seconded that, saying: "The warrants have been quashed and, unless the Supreme Court resolves otherwise, he is free man."

But Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Jose Balmeo disagreed, saying his client's would appeal the CA ruling at the Supreme Court "as soon as possible."

"If the high court [rules in our favor], we hope the senator will not go into hiding again," Constantino told the Inquirer by phone. With reports from Gaimie T. Fernandez and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; Philip C. Tubeza, Nikko Dizon, Jaymarie L. Andrade and Norman Bordadora in Manila

WHAT WENT BEFORE

By Lawrence de Guzman
Inquirer Research

SEN. Panfilo Lacson flew to Hong Kong on a Cathay Pacific airliner from Cebu on Jan. 5, 2010, just two days before prosecutors from the Department of Justice (DOJ) charged him with two counts of murder in connection with the killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito on Nov. 24, 2000.

The prosecutors based credible the affidavit and sworn testimony of former Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II, who said it was Lacson, his former boss, who ordered assassination of the two murders. The prosecutors filed the charges at the Manila Regional Trial Court and recommended no bail.

Lacson was denied immediate relief in the murders and claimed that he was being persecuted by the administration of then President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo because of his campaigning against her.

On Feb. 5, while on the lam, Lacson filed a motion to quash the charges against him. He argued that the Senate's privilege of parliamentary immunity protected him from arrest on all charges except treason, felony and breach of the peace.

Lacson's lawyer, Alex Poblador, argued that the charges against his client were politically motivated and that the DOJ panel had violated his right to due process when it refused to allow him to cross-examine Mancao.

On Feb. 11, the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 18 issued a warrant for Lacson's arrest, but he was already in Hong Kong by then.

On Feb. 15, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on Feb. 17 to face the charges against him.

But on Feb. 16, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On Feb. 17, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on Feb. 19 to face the charges against him.

But on Feb. 18, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On Feb. 19, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on Feb. 21 to face the charges against him.

But on Feb. 20, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

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On Feb. 23, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on Feb. 25 to face the charges against him.

But on Feb. 24, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On Feb. 25, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on Feb. 27 to face the charges against him.

But on Feb. 26, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On Feb. 27, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on Feb. 28 to face the charges against him.

But on Feb. 28, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 1, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 2 to face the charges against him.

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On March 3, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 4 to face the charges against him.

But on March 4, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 5, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 6 to face the charges against him.

But on March 6, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 7, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 8 to face the charges against him.

But on March 8, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 9, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 10 to face the charges against him.

But on March 10, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 11, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 12 to face the charges against him.

But on March 12, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 13, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 14 to face the charges against him.

But on March 14, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On March 15, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 16 to face the charges against him.

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On March 17, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 18 to face the charges against him.

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On March 19, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 20 to face the charges against him.

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On March 23, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 24 to face the charges against him.

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On March 29, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on March 30 to face the charges against him.

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On March 31, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 1 to face the charges against him.

But on April 1, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On April 2, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 3 to face the charges against him.

But on April 3, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On April 4, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 5 to face the charges against him.

But on April 5, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On April 6, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 7 to face the charges against him.

But on April 7, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On April 8, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 9 to face the charges against him.

But on April 9, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On April 10, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 11 to face the charges against him.

But on April 11, Lacson's lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration of the resolution finding probable cause to charge their client with murder.

On April 12, Lacson's camp announced that he would return to the country on April 13 to face the charges against him.

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60 minutes of darkness

From page A1

to make people reflect in darkness about how we fight global warming.

Gregg Yan, media officer of environment group WWF-Philippines (World Wide Fund for Nature), estimated 10 million Filipinos took part.

The consult from the unidentified girl came during the switch-off ceremonies at MOA, town mayor officials, including Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje, led parties, participants cradle lighting candles.

With only candles providing illumination, participants were treated to songs and numbers in praise of Mother Earth.

EM Steele in Quezon City also dimmed its lights.

In Sydney Australia's Opera House was the first of many global landmarks to go dark on Saturday as Earth-hour got under way with hundreds of millions of people around the world set to switch off their lights.

The Eiffel Tower in Paris and the world's tallest building in Dubai will also have their lights turned off for 60 minutes.

This year's events has been given added poignancy by Japan's nuclear disaster, which raises doubts about nuclear power as a possible solution to the energy problem.

Another record

In India City officials and environmental groups led in turning off lights and appliances at the IM City mall. Many residential areas joined in the action.

Events and hotels on Boracay Island also switched off their lights as the did big malls in Cebu, like SM City Ayala Center Cebu and Ismall.

In Baguio City cadets of the Philippine Military Academy formed the phrase "PMA Earth Hour 2011" in front the Pilar's Borromeo Field at 8:30 p.m. The cadets pledged to push efforts in saving the environment.

In Pangasinan, local radio station Aksyon Radyo capped off at 8:30 p.m., an hour and a half earlier than scheduled, as part of its participation.

Not until about 1,500 cities, towns and municipalities all over the country committed to participate in last night's event.

"Definitely, with that figure, we've already exceeded last year's number of participants and for the third consecutive year, our country has again topped global participation levels," Yan said.

Last year more than 13 million Filipinos or 1.5% towns and cities participated in the activity.

Jose Ma. Lorenzo Yap, WWF-Philippines president, said: "We must go beyond the one-hour switch off. If we want lasting and effective results, then we must modify our the way some of the events here out there, let's adopt Earth-friendly practices and lifestyles."

"The amount of power that's saved during that time is not really what it's about," Earth Hour cofounder and executive director Andy Ridley told Agence France-Presse in Sydney, where the environment began in 2007.

"What it is meant to be about is showing what can happen when people come together."

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon backed Earth Hour, urging people to celebrate the shared quest to "protect the planet and ensure human well-being."

"Let us use 60 minutes of darkness to help the world see the light," he said.

Largest voluntary action

Ridley said a record 134 countries or territories were on board for the event, which organizers have dubbed the world's largest voluntary action for the environment.

Other landmarks that will go dark for the hour are Times Square in New York, Beijing's "Bird's Nest" stadium that hosted the 2008 Olympics, the London Eye and Brazil's Christ the Redeemer statue.

The lights will be turned off from 8:30p.m. local time around the world.

It kicked off in the Pacific Rim, New Zealand and Australia, and then rolled into Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas as it followed the descending sun.

In Japan, reeling from a huge earthquake and tsunami, several thousands of people and a hazardous nuclear crisis, events were cancelled to mark Earth Day.

"People in Japan will have a special feeling this year when they turn the switches off," WWF spokesperson Hideko Arai told AFP.

"We will not only think about climate change but also the people who need energy in the disaster hit areas," she said. "We want to show our support for disaster victims."

Report by From Inquirer Northern Luzon, Inquirer Central Luzon, Inquirer Pangasinan, Leila Salaverria in Manila, AFP and Reuters

From page A1

tweeting on its main (@nasa/earthnow) and sports (@NBASpurs) accounts through spokesperson Cedell F. Tapas (@cedellft), who was assigned to cover the games at the Philippine national football team.

The event was crucial for the Azkals, who needed to finish in the top two of their qualifying bracket to advance to the main group of the Challenge Cup. The Philippines team faced the likes of Burma, Palestine and Bangladesh in the tournament that kicked off on March 21, the same day Twitter turned five.

No live coverage

But many people followed the Manila-by-likes accounts of the match through the long-term Twitter pages now banner from circumstance.

When the Azkals flew to Burma on a wave of newfound popularity their fans were faced with a big problem. Myanmar's ministry of television and information refused to air the games live.

Myanmar TV's concession was that it would tape the games and give the stations holding broadcast any rights to their scenarios. (To explain of the matches to be aired on a later date.

On the 19th, the broadcast giant that bagged the rights to televise the Azkals' matches, was not even allowed to bring in its own TV crew. Worse, there was no renegade sell-jackie from inside Myanmar who could feed live streaming the games on the web.

A band of pioneer was in the online community, where the Azkals' fame has reached lower pitch. Some of the players have well-followed Twitter accounts like Phil Younghusband (@PAYoungHusband), his brother Anton (@YFOU), skipper Aly Borromeo (@AlyBorromeo), Chieffy Caligdong (@chieffy_11) and goalkeeper Neil Etheridge (@NeilEtheridge).

Just as sweet

The Inquirer rushed in to calm the protest by offering an alternative—a live, real-time account of the matches as they were progressing.

For some, it wasn't much of a consolation.

"I've been following Lahoo games on Twitter [when] I couldn't watch them on TV so it's [nothing] new," tweeted Emma Ann Villarino (@kmaeshee07), a 21-year-old freelance writer from Davao. "However's [just] as sweet as it were if we watched it live!"

For others, it was the next best thing.

"[Because] live airing [was] impossible, it's an helpful to be updated with the scores on the Azkals' game," tweeted Quelino Ledda (@cheplaidai). "[It's] like watching [the games] live."

"This is better than not knowing what's happening," said Wilma Ivonne Gojol, 21, a student of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

It may come across as strange, especially to those who aren't adept at it, how people can "watch" a game live through updates that are, at most, only 140 characters long...including spaces.

After all, Twitter increases more set out to create real-time (but could've really mine. 6A TV ed.

Quick, fun resource

Josh Dorsey, Evan Williams and Biz Stone founded Twitter five years ago with the main goal of providing consumers a quick, fun resource for short messaging service offered by mobile phone companies. At the core of the creation was mobile messaging.

But when celebrities, notably Ashton Kutcher, began taking to Twitter to update people on what's going on in their personal lives, the site simply exploded. Soon, it became a quick and fun resource for current events and informative links.

The site reached its peak as a real-life crisis journalism in January 2009, when an airplane crashed into the Hudson River in New York shortly after takeoff.

Twitter user Janis Krums took a dramatic photograph of people standing on the wings of the fallen plane and shared it via an application linked to the site where one can post images. "There's a plane in the Hudson. I'm on the ferry going to pick up the people. Crazy," Krums tweeted.

The photo went viral and Twitter pushed the limits of its then-short original intent to had no boundaries.

It even succeeded in a somewhat unsavory end, as people began microblogging to encourage the meeting of members in the recent Mexican and Arab uprisings.

But is a subscription for the book sales?

"It's hard, but still blessed with the few updates here in Twitter," said by Blue Azkals, 23.

Neanderthal setup

The business setup for the live tweeting of the Azkals match in Myanmar was Neanderthal-crude.

Because Twitter is a banned site in the military-ruled Southeast Asian nation, Tapas would post updates on his Facebook account. In Manila, Inquirer.net's Gelwa Hizon would copy-paste Tapas' updates on the Inquirer sports Twitter account, editing slightly if the 140-character limit was breached.

The main Inquirer account would then re-tweet the updates to even more followers.

Those followers admitted that the experience of reading the Inquirer tweets and playing the game in their minds was unique. But as Phil star cruncher Fidel Manapsoon III (@fidmanapsoon) put it, it's like "listening to the radio."

The comment was shortly by many.

"We can't see them actually play and just hear from Twitter users how the match is going, so it's like listening to radio in a way," Dupit said.

Imagination

It's like what Lilad musician Javier Silos, for capacitance when he visits live NBA games at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. He "sees" the game progress through a flood of who does this the action to him.

The main difference is, without the musical and voice coverage bridge, the mind has to work on sensitive to Azkals can every Azkals play.

"It's like watching it in my mind," tweeted @quelchicatweet.

"I allow [my] imagination [to] fly," tweeted @lenaiana.

"Live tweeting was, for me, 75.86 percent similar to how I would have seen it from TV broadcast," tune fervently, a 23-year-old speech therapist and close acknowledgment said in an e-mail to the Inquirer.

"Maybe it served me well that I have a good and hard-working imagination to conjure those mental pictures of how the games were progressing, and based from the delayed broadcast of the Philippines vs Myanmar game, my mental pictures were good," she said.

On how Twitter account (@manchester-writer), Acevedo said following the Azkals' match via the live updates was like a "bloody heart attack!"

Indeed, at the very least, following the Azkals through the Inquirer Twitter account, explained the feeling of watching the game live on TV.

Heart-stopping

Here's a sampling of reactions from followers:

@AnnAvilesa: "Sound myself ruining my hands when Azkals scored."

@mmdelcar: "Sitting my nails in front of the computer screen kinda sweat."

@vincentpadilla: "It's more heart-stopping than watching it on TV"

@thatchicatapo: "It's like having choppy Internet's."

@VinceTriplett: "It's like being there or something like."

@MissCoch: "Exciting as well."

@jmb888: "Slamming while holding on (cell phones)."

@rajmiss: "Crazy, exciting but hyperactive, ingrown [and] eye-strain inducing, but so much fun actually."

@jaycinthhh: "It feels weird to shout while reading tweets."

@jmoto_ryc: "[The Inquirer updates] make me [want] to go home and watch the [game]."

@wenjaca: "It's an entirely different experience coming from someone who doesn't usually [tweet]."

Twitter even had an edge over TV, tweeted @fbagdadi5: "Can follow game even when mobile."

Unfortunately, the tweets sucked ball's way.

"It felt the same as watching it on TV — boring," tweeted @AdolfoWAZ. "Am happy [for the] team [because] they [sang home for the] country, but I can never understand how people could sit through 2 [plus] hours of a game that could end scoreless. I can't do that, my friends either."

Good taste

Still, the Inquirer Twitter account received a lot of messages of gratitude from its followers who badly wanted to catch the Azkals play live but found no other means to do so.

And the whole turn of events was as much a victory for Twitter as it was for the Philippines' most trusted news organization. In the span of a week, microblogging underdog yet another transformation that pressed their to no limit to how sites such as Twitter can reshape the landscape of information sharing.

And change how Internet readers see, literally, "new" things.

(Editor's Note: The Inquirer sports staff has live-tweeted other events, like Manny Pacquiao's matches and even PBA games. But this marked the first time live-tweeting was done as a substitute for live TV or radio coverage.)

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INTRODUCTION TO BIKING

3:00 PM	Bonifacio High Street Activity Center Open Gym, 10:30pm-7:30pm
10:00 AM	Alabang Town Center Activity Center Open Gym, 10am-6pm
10:00 AM	Alabang Town Center Activity Center Open Gym, 10am-6pm
10:00 AM	Bonifacio High Street Activity Center Open Gym, 10:30pm-7:30pm
8:00 AM	Alabang Town Center Activity Center Open Gym, 10:30pm-7:30pm

INTRODUCTION TO RUNNING

8:00 AM	Alabang Town Center Open Gym, 10am-6pm
10:00 AM	Alabang Town Center Activity Center Open Gym, 10am-6pm
8:00 AM	Bonifacio High Street Activity Center Open Gym, 10:30pm-7:30pm
10:00 AM	Alabang Town Center Activity Center Open Gym, 10am-6pm

INTRODUCTION TO SWIMMING

9:00 AM	Trinoma Activity Center Open Gym, 10am-6pm
3:00 PM	Bonifacio High Street Activity Center Open Gym, 10:30pm-7:30pm
2:00 PM	Alabang Town Center Activity Center Open Gym, 10:30pm-7:30pm

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Sign up for all activities at Alabang Town Center Activity Center or Bonifacio High Street Activity Center.
2. Log on to www.facebook.com/multisportseries to register.
3. Click on the Registration button.

Registration is available at the gyms, call 0917 5xx xxxx and visit our app downloads at www.multisport.ph

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LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE SO HURRY AND REGISTER NOW!

A SCREEN SHOT of the play-by-play tweets of the Azkals' game in Burma.

Japanese show power of patience, stoic discipline amid triple crises

By Ramon C. Matias
Contributor

LIKE the super slow-moving classic Japanese Noh drama, the stoic behavior of the Japanese people as they grappled with the triple crises posed by a killer earthquake, a tsunami and a radioactive threat panicked them not hastily into their cultures.

Western media marveled that, amid the ruins in Fukushima, there was no looting or rioting. Survivors sheltered in evacuation centers politely lined up for water and food rations.

In Metropolitan Tokyo, people waited patiently for their turn to make telephone calls or board trains—no pushing, no shoving.

In various evacuation centers, survivors went to work to help themselves, with the assistance of government and nongovernmental organizations: doctors, dentists and barbers, whose clinics and shops had been ravaged, gave free services to fellow survivors, according to news reports.

Repairmen fixed bicycles for free; local veterinarians donated cages for rescued cat packs; and high school students either put up signs saying "Tashikete, Aikue!" (Push on, Japan!) or did the laundry of evacuees, also for free.

Short on bed, shuttle buses ferried people from evacuation centers to evacuation center, various accounts said.

To give a semblance of normalcy, survivors walled their dogs while garbage in evacuation centers was segregated into biodegradable and nonbiodegradable categories.

In the temporary shelters, available playground spaces were "divided" according to geographical neighborhood associations, complete with a representative from each neighborhood who takes up grievances with the proper authorities.

Stoic endurance

This orderliness or harmony (wa in Japanese) amid an unprecedented national emergency minimizes or prevents open conflicts.

Such stoicism was observed upon by the Japanese who rules their person (jinkaku) and kenju, a Japanese triad that combines "passive, stoic endurance" with "all-out drive to accomplish a goal."

The emphasis on this kind of discipline is to be found in the Japanese culture, which caricatures people who disturb the fabric of social conformity and who are seen as augurworms (gyudji).

Japanese values are inculcated in the people at an early age.

Power of perseverance

As a graduate student in Japan in the early 1990s, my non-Japanese classmates and I became familiar with the concept of kenju, which is basically a diligent, quiet and unassuming effort (doryoku) to temper the spirit (seishin) in order to reach a goal, no matter how big or small.

In the present crisis, the Japanese people have collectively shown the power of patience and perseverance (gaman), orderliness and harmony (wa), passive, stoic endurance (kenju) and self-discipline.

This is the same stoicism and sense of self-sacrifice the Japanese people showed in surviving atomic bombings and numerous other calamities.

Country first

Three days after the March 11 disasters, I wrote that Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan did not mention the workers bravely facing the developing nuclear crisis in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in his first nationally televised addressed following the calamities.

Pushed by gaman and kenju, the workers did not abandon their posts even if it seemed suicidal to go on. They showed another Japanese trait: putting first their country, community and group over their individual concerns.

Their family members did not go to the media to complain that their husbands and fathers were already at risk. They quietly accepted the fact that the workers simply had to accomplish their task of preventing a full nuclear meltdown regardless of the risks they faced.

To those who can read and write Japanese, it is interesting to note that the words society (shakai) and company (kaisha) are represented by two completely similar Japanese characters.

The web of 'giri'

All of the above does not bite the fact the Japanese society and the Japanese people have numerous problems such as discrimination, bullying and corruption, both in the political and business arenas. But above is another forum to scrutinize these problems.

Lastly, the polite refusal of the Japanese government to accept assistance during the tragedy devastating 1995 Kobe earthquake that killed 6,000 people also baffled the world, eliciting comments that it stemmed from Japanese arrogance.

The truth is: Japan's cultural realm emphasis self-reliance, the obligation and duty to take care of one's own, and the anxiety of creating trouble to strangers that may strain social relations.

There is also the fear that a Japanese who receives favors from foreigners would be unable to repay the favor somehow. Once a Japanese starts receiving favors or gifts, he or she is caught in the complex web of giri (obligations).

It may surprise the non-Japanese but the ritual of giving and receiving favors, especially gifts, in Japan is governed by a complicated set of norms.

Hence, the decision of the Japanese government to allow the international community to ship donations, such as food, water and blankets, following the March 11 tragedies, is a sign that Japan is indeed operating up.

But it can do more and it will not be accused of being too proud.

(Editor's Note: Ramon C. Matias is a Filipino journalist who worked for the Japanese daily Kyodo News Agency from 1986 to 1992 and covered the presidency of Corazon C. Aquino from 1986 to 1992. He is the first Southeast Asian admitted to the Ph.D. in the Sociology program of the Kyoto-administered Sophia University in Tokyo. Now a freelance journalist living in Manila, Matias lived in Tokyo from 1992 to 2002.)

SURVIVORS pose for a picture with Zainenji temple chief priest Shunei Ogaya (center, rear line) at the temple in the town of Otsuchi in Iwate prefecture. Fifteen of the survivors have been sheltered at the temple following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that hit the northeastern coast of Japan. —

Japan thanks PH for relief aid, messages

A GRATEFUL Japan received the Philippines' donation of more than 12 metric tons of relief goods with a vow to rebuild itself after the devastation wrought by a powerful earthquake and tsunami, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

Japan Secretary for Foreign Affairs Yutaka Iiunno thanked the Philippine government for the "warm message of sympathy and for the shipment of the relief items that are needed in the affected areas in Japan," the DFA said.

Iiunno sent on Tokyo on Friday with Ambassador Manuel Lopez, who informed him of the shipment of 30.11 metric tons of relief supplies worth almost P1 million that arrived in Japan on the same day.

Iiunno said that Japan "is determined to rebuild itself after this crisis," according to the DFA statement.

The relief supplies consist of noodles and food packs, towels, dust masks and mats, based on the needs identified and requested by Japan.

Hanes to 300,000 Pinoys

Lopez reiterated to Iiunno the profound condolences of the Filipino people to the Japanese government and people as they cope with the twin disasters.

He cited the long-standing ties between the Philippines and Japan, which is home to almost 300,000 Filipinos, almost 4,000 of them were living in the four provinces (prefectures) hit hardest by the calamity.

Iiunno extended his sympathies to the Philippines upon learning that two Filipinos had died in the disaster. He said Japan was prepared to support Philippine embassy efforts in assisting Filipinos in the affected areas.

Lopez said the Philippine government was ready to extend any assistance Japan "within its capability," including sending a humanitarian assistance to Japan "should its services be requested," the DFA said. — EV Ikay

Sin statue starting ...

From page A1

Manuel Castelle initially objected to violating the integrity of his artistic creation.

"I told you, we suspect that had the problem was solved this widespread reaction that this statue looked more like a commando," Lim said.

The changes were made. The bronze statue's head was replaced and a sculpted sash and rosary added.

"From yesterday (on Friday), Mr Sanz re-lead team put last (think it is now OK)," said Lim.

Sun's Mark Manda, the parish priest of Malate's Sta. Ana, Manila, named after Sin, said the statue now looks more like the late prelate.

The statue stands at the corner of P. Burgos Street and A. Bonifacio Drive in Ermita, Manila, midway between the monuments to two other democracy icons—Ninoy Aquino and the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Commissioned by Lim

It was originally commissioned by Lim at his own expense as a tribute to the influential prelate, one of the pillars of the anti-Marcos dictatorship movement and the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution.

Sin, who died in 2005, had also endorsed Lim's failed presidential bid in 1998.

The 15-foot bronze statue, reportedly costing P500,000, was supposed to depict a young Sin (unpatched, wearing plain priestly robes, with the right hand raised in blessing).

It was unveiled last Feb. 25 to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the first Edsa People Power Revolution.

It was a response to Gerilla on Radio Veritas on the evening of Feb. 22, 1986, that people began converging on Edsa in support of a group of rebels that had broken away from the Defense Secretary Minister, Radio Veritas became the Cardinal's call throughout the night.

Sin ensured the success of the Gerilla revolution. Lim said in a speech during the unveiling.

However, when the statue was finally unveiled, there was general surprise at how different the figure looked from the portly prelate remembered with fondness by many people.

At the time, Manda quoted the artist as saying that the statue was a combination of the young and adult versions of the Cardinal.

Even then, there was already talk of further enhancing and improving the statue to "make its resemblance to the late Cardinal clearer."

The real Samurai: 'Fukushima 50' swells to 700

From page A1

RADIATION TEST Yasuhisa Sai who evacuated from Minamisoma in Fukushima, undergoes a test for signs of nuclear radiation at a health center in Yonezawa, northern Japan, 90km from the Fukushima nuclear plant. Sai went back to his abandoned house on Friday and did not show harmful levels of radiation. —AFP

cial networks, the men have also won quieter admiration and sympathy from Japanese.

"Their job was to shut sort of work, plant, and I think they always knew that this might be their destiny, that at some point they might have to fight this kind of thing," said Yasuhiko Hotoda, a 27-year-old advertising executive in Tokyo.

"They're trying very hard and I'm very grateful."

Three workers replacing a cable at the plant, run by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco), were exposed to radiation 10,000 times higher than normal after they stood in contaminated water this week.

Though encased in protective suits, it turned out two of the men had boots not about to stop water seeping in.

'Pray for the Samurai'

In a rare glimpse into conditions inside the reactors, photos released two weeks into the crisis showed shadowy figures working in near-darkness to structure the pipework and cooling systems, the gloom illuminated by a few weak lights.

"They're all the real Samurai," said one admirer on a Facebook page dedicated to the Fukushima workers and mainly containing messages from outside Japan.

"Let us pray for your health and safe return to your homes. May God help all of you in such single-minded efforts you are still fighting desperately for your country and people. Thank you, Fukushima 50," commented another person on Facebook.

'Like a war'

The only public appearance by anyone who has been inside the plant was overseen nonetheless by fastidious tech at this week. They cried with relief and spoke of their commitment to stay.

Most of the workers are too busy to go home.

The wife of one told the daily Asahi on Wednesday that she had not seen her husband since the day of the quake and tsunami, and had only spoken with him briefly several times.

"It's like a war here," she quoted him as saying.

Asked if he had been prepared to sacrifice, he told her: "It is."

Group over individuals

The lack of effective praise or public hoo-rah over them inside Japan may be due to cultural norms that emphasize the group over individuals.

Sociologist professor Takeshi Hiroga, of Hosei University near Tokyo, said praise in Japan was generally reserved for the whole team—and only when they finally succeed.

Reservations about the role of giant operator Tepco could also be a factor.

"Among the mainstream media there's also a growing sense of how responsible Tepco is for this whole mess, and this is making them reluctant to praise anybody involved in cleaning it up," Hiroyama said. "After all, these workers are mainly Tepco people or from Tepco affiliates."

Retiring by volunteered

Foreign media have reported the Twitter comments by one of the men's daughters who said he had volunteered despite being just six months from retirement.

"My eyes are filling up with tears," posted @MinamiAsano. "At home, he doesn't seem like someone who could handle big jobs ... but today, I see really proud of him. And I pray for his safe return." — Reuters

"IT IS in the spirit of bayanihan that the Filipino people reach out to help the victims of the Japan earthquake."
Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario

GLOBAL Pinoy

Cebu Monica Feria

Send feedback, comments and suggestions at globalpinoy@inquirer.net

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Strangers in our own country

No to the death penalty

CEBU Rep. Eduardo Gullas

THE INCREASING number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) facing execution for crimes committed in their host countries "serves as another compelling reason" for Congress to resist calls to revive the death penalty here, House Assistant Majority Leader and Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas said.

"If Congress reinstates capital punishment, the Philippine government will naturally lose the moral high ground to boldly appeal in foreign governments for clemency on behalf of OFWs meted out death verdicts," Gullas said.

He said the Philippine government would find it "extremely difficult, if not impossible to seek leniency for OFWs facing execution, if we ourselves are putting our own convicts to death."

"We have foreigners right and 21 million OFWs across the globe. Unfortunately, many of them are in countries that still subscribe to the death penalty and are overly zealous in judicial executions," Gullas pointed out.

"Thus, many OFWs accused of serious criminal offenses are actually exposed to the harsh reality of capital punishment," he warned.

"If the government wants to save the lives of our OFWs facing possible executions abroad, Congress should avoid the temptation to resurrect the death penalty," Gullas said.

China has postponed the execution of three Filipinos convicted of drug trafficking, following a strong appeal by the Philippine government, including a visit by Vice President Jejomar Binay to Beijing.

Three Filipinos—Sharon Cerdo, Sally Ordinario-Ni. Innerva and Elizabeth Batain—are to be executed via lethal injection in China next week.

Migrante International, a nongovernmental organization, previously reported that at least 79 other Filipinos workers are on death row in China.

More than 130 other Filipinos-without-papers are also facing possible death sentences in other countries, Migrante said.

Gullas said at least 139 countries have already abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

"However, at least 56 others consider it still required the penalty and many of them will surely see executions," he added.

He said his committee will bring the death penalty and hostile wage members of OFWs include Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Oman, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Libya.

Saudi Arabia alone publicly beheaded at least 69 Filipinos in 2009, making it the No. 2 most active executioner of convicts, next only to China which put to death more than 1,000 criminals that year," Gullas said.

To Anna, Gullas said Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Mexico and Japan still adhere to capital punishment and they all host a lot of OFWs.

By Casiano P. Mayor Jr.
Deyd Bador

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—"Ten years which appeared in Saudi newspapers prompted me to ponder about our workings as migrant workers. One was a photograph showing Filipino workers in an employment agency seeking job placement overseas. The other was a news report about how Filipinos therefore have to borrow or mortgage their spending on food, to remit the family budget for other basic necessities like fuel, electricity and water.

The two items underscored how difficult life has become in our country. The queue of overseas job seekers had given birth to the government's insidious idea to export 2,000 Filipinos hence the country every day for greener pastures in some foreign lands. Those who saw the photograph could have felt a sense of indignity with this job seekers.

We have had our own share of experiences similar to theirs before we came to our new job sites in the Kingdom.

Many of us had queued outside job placement agencies in Manila or other key cities in the archipelago. Starting the morning was not eating banana catchat lunch with high hopes that life would turn for the better when we had been hired for the job.

My own family did feel the pinch of hard times before I came to Jeddah in 1999. Although we had made it a point never to miss paying any utility bill because we knew that Meralco would have our power line with neither pay nor connection a few days after the bill was due, we did miss on several occasions paying our telephone bill and our monthly amortization for our housing loan from the Social Security System.

There were times I felt sorry for my wife when we watched our 11-year-old child enjoy her "shaken jay" at Jollibee, while neither of us took anything because we could not afford to order meals for ourselves after buying the family groceries at the supermarket.

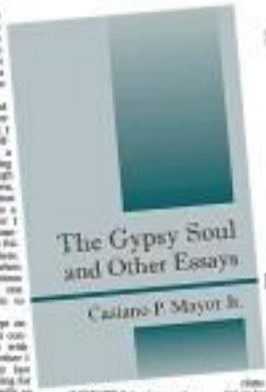
I felt self-pity when I had to rummage the door racks at Ali in 1,000 hoping to find a pair of shoes for P200 or a blue denim—ok a close denim a discount pair of 600 shoes cost at least P900—to replace a worn-out pair I was wearing.

I had known hard times after my father died when I was 13. I call myself a self-made man with a sense of pride, having made my way through college on my own, first as a construction laborer and then as a draftsman. I married, and I felt my uncle's home held in Sandiwa is fine now my own elsewhere. But it is different when one faces crying times alone than when one wrestles with them to find for a family.

Alone, I had slept on piles of plywood at construction job sites while many a new sun whether I would breathe my last that night. I was living for myself with no family to worry about. But we all know that it is different when we have families to look after. We have to freshen the nose and see with that our household have decent meals on the dining table, that our children go to the public town morning ready with our families depending on us, we become cautious fathers taking extra only when necessary.

That is why I am a no-hero. I had said: Ati Marlo, a college classmate in Manila whom I met by chance a few months ago in a hospital here where my wife and I took our daughter for treatment of her neurophysis. He talked about life as general—life in college, our hopes when we were young and how difficult times had become back home after our economy had collapsed under the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

It was time to look back to the days of our youth when we were young journalists students who had set up our own campus newsletter because we felt that the official school publications were not serving the interest of the students but those of the school administration and Marcos.



INSIGHTFUL Musings on the Filipino diaspora

We belonged to a group of students who read seriously our share of the social burden to help change our warped social and political system. It was at a time when expression to other countries, mainly to the United States, was the domain of dictators and cronies. It was a time when I felt that our classes and nurses who migrated to the United States had no sense of patriotism.

Over dinner at Shamdy restaurant in Jeddah, we laughed at how we had lost the connection to fight for a better country. Like those idealist students in our time, we have been gobbled by the same system we had resisted to change. The anti-dictatorial politicians, whom we had despised the plagues, were still here, continued to dominate the political landscape back home.

Also over dinner, Ati and I talked about migrating to other countries before "liberalization" can close up with us. That night we were not the young planners we used to be, we were content on Kingdom pinning a mirage to some foreign lands, factors that we had to leave our own homeland since it has been plundered by our politicians whose dreams could not go beyond basking in the glory of wealth and power.

Thus Tuesday night was a bittersweet reminder that I have long shed off any illusion that I will have the burning fervor of a patriot in me, no matter if the government begin re-selling us to other countries, mainly to the United States, was the domain of dictators and cronies. It was a time when I felt that our classes and nurses who migrated to the United States had no sense of patriotism.

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I am an OFW but I am not a hero. I did not come here out of my sense of patriotism but as a husband and a father who wanted to see a new dawn for my family, no matter if that dawn unfolds in some other country.

I have come to terms with reality. Like millions of our compatriots who have left our homeland for greener pastures in other parts of the world, I have learned my way in the world of the "strangers" workers who have become strangers in our own country.

The author is an editor with the Saudi Gazette. The article is part of a collection of essays published in his book, "The Gypsy Soul and Other Essays" (Anvil Pub., 2008).

I am an OFW but I am not a hero. I did not come here out of my sense of patriotism but as a husband and father ...

Visayans keep 'Matud Nila' and Ati-Atihan alive and well in Hawaii

HUMAN HISTORY tells of the exodus of Visayan seafarers to work in the sugar plantations of Hawaii in 1906. Today there are over 26 organizations of Visayans in the island state.

Congress of Visayan Organizations (Cova), a nationwide umbrella of organizations of Filipinos with Visayan ancestry, hosts a weekly radio program "Ang Bulgong," over Hawaii's KKLN Radio. It combines news culled from the Visayan community interviews and Visayan music.

Cova was initially organized in 1985 as Visayan League. Later, it was incorporated as a non-profit corporation and extended its membership to Filipino organizations with ancestry from among the Visayan speaking provinces of Mindanao.

Keeping traditions alive

In its 25 years of existence, Cova has been keeping the Visayan language and traditions alive in Hawaii.

To recognize the accomplishments of Filipinos with Visayan ancestry in Hawaii, Cova initiated the biennial Lapu-Lapu Awards in 2002. It has conferred the award to 300 Filipinos in the community whose achievements include the lifetime achievement, individual achievement in various fields and young achiever's awards. The award has become a source of pride among members of the Filipino community especially the younger generation.

Remembering sacrifices

During the centennial celebration of Filipino migration to Hawaii in 2006, Cova staged the Ati-Atihan, Dinagyang and Sinulog Festivals in Hawaii.

It also unveiled a marker commemorating the 50th anniversary of the sole voyage from Hawaii to the Philippines of Mr. Honorato Ess, and established a monument to Hanapepe, Kauai, in commemoration of the death of Filipino workers, mostly Visayans, in the State's 1924 labor uprising.

Sto. Niño in Honolulu

The migration commercial ethnicity was highlighted by the Sto. Niño festival, Visayan Centennial Tree, Visayan Grocery awards, Cova Generation and production of Sinulumahan, a collection of stories and testimonies about the Visayan experience in Hawaii.

Hawaii's Honolulu Advertiser referred to the celebration as "A festival for all Filipinos."

Lending a helping hand

Cova has led many emergency relief efforts in Hawaii. In 2006, it responded to cries for aid from Ilubokanons in southern Philippines after a landslide. The organization raised money to donate to Aloha Medical Mission and granted scholarships to some of the children whose families were victims of the landslide.

In 2008, Cova, in cooperation with other Filipino organizations, raised almost $200,000 for the victims of Tropical Storm "Undoy" Cova, a partnered with Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Filipino Community Center and Hawaii International Relief Organization in shipping 8,000 books to 113 public school libraries in Ilubokanons. It also donated various medical equipment, supplies and computers to the city government of Panabo in Davao del Norte.

Political lobby group

Cova has also been politically active through its Committee on Political Education. It is actively lobbying for programs such as minimum wage increases, tax reform, funding for youth programs, immigration issues, cultural observances, effective voter registration issues, and veterans' rights.

One of its relevant lobby efforts resulted in the passing of a State resolution to explore the possibility of offering courses on Visayan language and culture in the University of Hawaii system.

Cova was also instrumental in the establishment of the sister-city agreement between Cebu City and Honolulu, and the same province agreement between Hawaii and Cebu. The agreements have led to several businesses, trade, technical, educational and cultural exchanges between Cebu and Hawaii.

According to Jun Cabanero, past president of Cova, the entire show was also put up for the purpose of showing the Visayan spirit and for the larger community it is hoped that such exposure would lead to a greater awareness of who and what the Visayans are, and to an understanding of the positive contributions within Filipino society and culture.

VISAYAN-HAWAIANS celebrate the centennial of the first wave of Filipino immigrants to Hawaii.

Songs from the heart

The program started on Aug. 8, 2001, and continues to feature top leaders from Visayan Bonggo, Bohol-based, Charanians and Cebuanos songs like "Matud Nila," it provides information about Cova activities and events to the Filipino community in Hawaii, as well as news from the Visayas and Mindanao region in the Philippines. Since its inception, it has invited leaders from several member organizations such as Bukasan Tandok Society, Kabayo Banggoi in Hawaii, Cebu-Hawaii Friendship Society, Samar Leyte Association Inc., Dalmacyanon Association of Hawaii and Mindanaoans of Hawaii.

Bayanog Award

Among the anthem of the program are Eddie Morte (past president of Dalmacyanon Association of Hawaii), Alma Sinamenog (president of Cebuano Association of Hawaii), and Cebuanos himself.

Last December, Cova topped the Bayanog Award, a presidential citation to outstanding overseas Filipino organizations, for "its achievements in fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among Filipinos particularly those with Visayan ancestry in Hawaii and its contributions to the concerted humanitarian efforts in Hawaii and in the Philippines."

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lifunday

Metro bus fares to go up by ₱1 starting Tuesday

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BUS FARES in Metro Manila are set to increase by P1 on Tuesday, March 29, amid rising fuel prices since the start of the year.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) over the weekend approved a provisional hike in fares by bus operators in Metro Manila, pending the decision on petitions for even bigger increases in fares.

In its order, signed by Chair Nelson Lahoylahoy and Board Member Samuel Julius Estonin, the LTFRB said ordinary and air-conditioned bus fares would be allowed to raise fares by P1 for the first five kilometers of every passenger's trip.

This would result in a minimum fare of P10 for ordinary buses. The rate for every succeeding kilometer, which currently stands at P1.40, will remain the same.

Air-conditioned bus fares, meanwhile, will rise to P13 for the first five kilometers, while the rate for every succeeding kilometer will stay at the current P1.50.

Climbing fuel costs

The increase in fares comes amid the recent rise in the prices of basic goods around the country, driven mainly by climbing fuel costs. Jeepney fares have already been raised by P1 while taxi rates are also higher by a third.

"While the board recognizes the plight of the Filipino people in this time of crisis, it cannot be insensitive to the present clamor of stakeholders in public land transportation services for necessary action on fare rates," the order read.

"The Board has to judiciously balance the rights of the riding public who are mostly dependent on the public transport system vis-à-vis the right of grantees of Certificates of Public Convenience to a reasonable return of investment," it added.

The fare adjustment stemmed from an application by the Emergency Metro Bus Operators Association, or Emboa, which asked that ordinary and air-conditioned bus fares be raised by P6 and P6, respectively.

Not the only factors

In a dissenting opinion, Manuel Iway, the board member of the three-person LTFRB, said the rise in fuel prices and alleged high maintenance and operation costs should not be the only factors considered in the grant of fare hikes.

"Fare hikes greatly affect the riding public and contributes in a rise in the cost of goods," he said.

He said judicial notice should be taken that Unioil and Mindanao's fuel prices are higher by as much as P5 compared to Liuco's fuel prices and still, a petition was filed to Region VII praying for a reduction of fare rates for buses from P8.50 to P6 for the first five kilometers and from P1.40 to P1.20 for every succeeding kilometer.

"This, to me, raises a presumption that even with the increase in fuel prices, the operators can still operate profitably," he said.

Be wary of woman stealing newborn babes, cops warn

By Jeannette I. Andrade

MANILA policemen yesterday warned the public against a woman lurking around the city's hospitals and allegedly stealing newborn babies.

Manila Police District Women's and Children's Protection Desk (MPD-WCPD) head Chief Insp. Anita Arnaiz told the Inquirer that the woman is believed to be responsible for several kidnappings of infants, one of whom was abducted on Wednesday last week.

Arnaiz identified the suspect as a certain Mahajine Arusa and described her to be around 40 years old, five-four inches tall, and has a heavy build.

She said the suspect had befriended the mother of a 2-day-old baby by taking care of her while she was confined at the Ospital ng Sampaloc where she gave birth.

Potential victims

"We suspect that she stays at the obstetrics and pediatric wards of the hospitals and looks for possible victims. Her potential victims are patients who seem to have an existing relatives," Arnaiz said.

The suspects, she explained, arose from the kidnapping of a street dweller's baby on March 23.

Arnaiz revealed that Marjorie Angay, 37, had given birth at the Ospital ng Sampaloc on March 21 at around 5:30 p.m., and was confined at the medical facility.

While there, Angay was approached by a woman who identified herself as a "Mision brothers," claimed she also had a patient at the hospital, and offered to take care of her as she seemed to be alone.

Angay told us that Melen took care of her until she was discharged from the hospital two days after," the MPD-WCPD chief said, adding that Melen promised to take her to the bus terminal and accompany the new mother and her baby to the province.

Video footage

"We saw video footage from the security cameras that Melen was carrying the baby (about Angay's) in the hospital," Arnaiz said. From the hospital, the two, along with the baby, proceeded to the BLT Terminal at the corner of A. H. Lacson Avenue and Gastambide Street in Sampaloc.

There, Melen allegedly insisted to Angay to change her feminine napkin and undergown purportedly so she would not stain the bus seat. Angay complied and left the infant with Melen. But several minutes after, her "friend" disappeared with the baby.

Angay sought the help of a security guard at the terminal and reported the kidnapping to the police.

Arnaiz told the Inquirer that the suspect's real name was provided by her sister Rodora Arnaiman, who claimed that she has not seen Arusa for 20 years.

"The sister thought that she was dead. Melen was recognized by a relative who happened to be confined at the same hospital ward," the MPD-WCPD chief pointed out.

Arnaiz disclosed that they are eyeing Arusa's possible involvement in three robbery or abduction of newborn babies in the Manila area.

Third local solar car on the rise

Vehicle blazes path for the use of renewable energy in PH

By Jaymee T. Gamil

THEY may ahead of the energy crisis by raising an eyebrow.

The Philippine Solar Car Challenge Society Inc. (PSCC-SI) and faculty and students of De La Salle University (DLSU), Manila are once again blazing a path for the use of renewable energy in the country, with the construction of a solar car aptly named after that.

Named Silkat II, the new-wave car is set to join the 3,000-km World Solar Challenge race in several Australia, from Darwin to Adelaide, from Oct. 16 to Oct. 23.

More efficient

Silkat II is the third solar car created by the DLSU, designed to be more efficient than its predecessors. The first solar car, called Silang ("Sun Kiss"), finished 12th out of 40 in the race in 2005, while the second, Silkat, went on a nationwide tour to promote sustainable natural energy in 2010.

"Our solar cars can run with [an Indy] power needed to power a flying car. While the car is power, while it is faster than the two previous cars. It's thinner and lighter, and will have new non-preserved silicon cells," said DLSU professor and Silkat II assistant project head Jack Gatchalian.

Futuristic design

The four cars' solar cars, and the sonic model of Silkat II, were on display during the latest's design launch at DLSU-Manila on March 17. Silkat II has a sleek, futuristic insect-like design, with a broad, flat surface peppered with black solar panels; the cockpit's small, 360-degree windshield jutting up front it; and two front steering wheels and one rear wheel.

The car is being made of a shell of lightweight carbon-fiber honeycomb composites, and a fast down from DLSU, it measures 5 meters long, 1.5 meters wide and 1.1 meters high, weighing in at only 180 kg.

Construction is ongoing, but the car is expected to be finished for initial testing sometime around the end of May or early June, Gatchalian said.

The car will be primarily powered by a 2-kilowatt motor, which can run at a top speed of 110 kph. Silkat II will also carry a 21-kg lithium-ion battery with a life span of 4000 recharges. It will be charged with the sun's radiation to be "harvested" and converted into electricity by the solar panels or photovoltaic cells.

When charged, the battery can run up to 800 km at 60 kph under sunny conditions, and 350 km even without sunlight.

The locally-made solar panels have yet to arrive from Europe, Gatchalian said, but the team is expected to be able to generate a maximum of 1,500 watts.

'Green power'

But more than solar energy, the project rests on the "green power" of the DLSU development team. The group is composed of seven faculty members and 22 juniors and seniors from the mechanical engineering and electronics and communications engineering departments of the university.

The students, guided by the faculty contribute to the design and construction of the car, and are assigned to specific parts. Fourth year ECE students Allan Ildit and Heidi Millare, for instance, work on the battery, motor, and electrical systems such as the lights. "It was related to our courses, so we jumped at the chance," Millare said.

Despite the car construction looking like a pro bano-amateur job, the students volunteered for it. "We're proud of this and a lifetime opportunity. This is hosted to be the future of the car industry, so we're ahead of our peers," Ildit pointed.

They are confident Silkat II could clinch the race or automotive in the wake of skyrocketing oil prices. Ford Group Philippines chair and PSCCSI board member Henry Co lamented solar cars are not a commercial possibility at this time due to economic reasons. For example, around solar cars Silkat cost P5 million to be constructed.

But to see this progress as something beyond solar cars. "When fossil fuels run out in the future, this is an opportunity for the Philippines to play a significant role with something we have plenty of: sunlight, and young people brought up with a different mindset, who understand the need for clean energy," Co said.

Lopez hopes the three current solar cars would eventually pave the way for harnessing solar energy for most aspects of daily Filipino life. He added: off "clean roofs and solar-powered irrigation pumps, desalination systems to produce potable water, purposes, even "karaoke machines that will stop functioning after sunset," he joked.

"We can no longer afford to burn fossil fuels. The recent Japanese power plant crisis in Fukushima, Japan, tells us we must seriously rethink where we get our energy," he said.

THE BUILDERS of Silkat: Fredylyn Federico Lopez (center), chair of the Philippine Solar Car Challenge Society Inc., show the car's design at De La Salle University in Taft Avenue, Manila. The solar car will join the world solar car race in Australia this April.

Crossing the railways? Stop, look, listen

By Tina G. Santos

#ASEG accidents. Stop, look and listen.

This was the advice of authorities to motorists when crossing the railways following an unusual three consecutive accidents involving Philippine National Railways (PNR) trains in the cities of Taguig and Muntinlupa last Friday, causing injury to a bystander and damages to several vehicles.

The first accident happened around 12:20 p.m. when a PNR commuter train hit a Harley van (with plate number XDT 600) after the van's driver reportedly ignored the warning signals of a barrier keeper personnel at the Bicutan Crossing in Taguig.

The second mishap occurred around 5:26 p.m. when a passenger jeepney (TWH 311) apparently passed through an illegal crossing in Barangay Ampalaya, also in Taguig.

No one was hurt in both accidents.

However, a bystander, Melinda Legaspi, 50, was injured when she was hit by a Toyota Innova (DXE 991) upon its impact to the train's rear end in Bicutan.

Sup. Eleanor Marco, Bian-Laguna chief of police, said the victim was taken to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa for treatment.

He added that the incident happened when the vehicle's driver, Bart Capo, 42, allegedly passed through an illegal crossing in Bayanan, Muntinlupa, around 7:30 p.m.

"Those are the problems that the PNR have been constantly and seriously addressing. Despite of all the necessary precautions that we have implemented in order to warn motorists and pedestrians to intently consider the possible repercussions and dangers every time our trains pass through these railway crossings, many still ignore it," said PNR General Manager Junio Ragragio Jr. in a statement.

In addition to the attendant crossing barriers, he said that it has been the practice of PNR to post crossing keeper personnel to all road and railway intersections to ensure the enforcement of halting traffic flow of vehicles each time the commuter trains pass the intersections.

However, he said that PNR trains constantly blow their horns during their run as a safety measure in reminding motorists and pedestrians on their presence.

"It seems that many of our motorists have forgotten the old adage of 'stop, look and listen.' What aggravates this situation is that there are illegal crossings along the rail tracks," Ragragio lamented.

NO TO DEMOLITION. A resident of little San Roque in Quezon City (right), confronts Saturday a member of a group of security guards allegedly hired by the National Housing Authority for the demolition of their shanties in the area. The residents demanded that they vacate the area.

DepEd sets quake drill, safety seminar at Pasig HQ

#SEG warns over major quake hitting Metro Manila at any time, the Department of Education (DepEd) is set to hold an earthquake drill and occupational safety seminar for its employees at its Pasig City headquarters this week.

DepEd chief engineer and administrative service director Oliver Hernandez said the drill, to be held on March 31, seeks to identify "disaster methods" who shall guide employees in an orderly evacuation in case of a quake or fire.

"The activity is very timely not only because of the series of earthquakes that happened but also as life saving skills that every employee should know as they are one of those who are supposed properly before, during and after any of these hazards," read the memo dated March 22.

The DepEd Central Office in Pasig City houses the offices of all top education officials including Education Secretary Armin Luistro and the central depository of critical documents and personnel related papework. Some 1,200 employees go to work there every day. Tarra Quismundo

MetroBriefs

Teenage girl stabbed dead in her room

A TEENAGE girl was stabbed dead inside her room on Friday night in Quezon City by an assailant who blamed the victim for the death of his son. The victim was identified as Jovanah Suarez, 16, a resident of Visayas St., Group 3 in Bagong Pag-asa in Quezon City. Police said the teenager was stabbed multiple stab wounds in the back and abdomen. Investigation showed that the victim's mother, Gerda, heard screams coming from her daughter's room at around 11 p.m. She checked on her daughter but was met by the suspect hastily coming out of the victim's room as he held a bloodied knife. Gerda shouted for help but was pushed away by the suspect who was identified as Leodato B.J. a neighbor. Police are now hunting him as they continue to probe the suspect's involvement in stabbing Suarez. One of the residents in the neighborhood, Jonathan Nelson Perez, told authorities that the suspect allegedly blamed the teenage girl for the serious burn of his suspect's baby. John M. Arnaldo

Wanted man killed in shoot-out

A NOTORIOUS man wanted for a string of criminal cases was killed in a shoot-out Saturday with police operatives in Caloocan City. Chief Insp. Eric Gaviola, subdistrict 1 commander, identified the suspect as Dennis Cadio. Gaviola said Cadio fleeded out when he saw a convoy police car approaching in the vicinity of Barangay 144 Tinajeros at around 1:30 p.m. along M. Domingo Street corner Mukhang Street in Barangay Pio del Pilar. The victim was reportedly engaged in a drinking spree with friends when the suspects, on board a motorcycle and wearing bull-face helmets, attacked by shooting him repeatedly. Authorities recovered several empty shells at the scene of the crime. Tina G. Santos

Thinking that he was to be arrested, Cadio ran atop the roof of Bagong Buhi to public market, pulled a gun out and engaged police in a running gunbattle. After a series of gunfire exchanges, Cadio sustained fatal gunshot wounds and was rushed to Presidente Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Medical Center, where he was declared dead on arrival. Cadio had endured at least for two years, Gaviola said, the lead warrants of arrest for drugs charges, robbery and estafa. Kristine Felisse Mangunay

Ex-NBI employee shot dead

A NORMER employee of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen early Good Saturday in Makati City. Police said they were still conducting investigation to establish the motive behind the killing of victim Michael Peter Romero, 32, of U. Victor Street, Barangay Pio del Pilar, Senior Supt. Florian Gondra, Makati chief of police, said the victim died on the spot after sustaining multiple gunshot wounds in different parts of the body. Initial investigation showed that the incident happened around 1:10 a.m. along M. Domingo Street corner Mukhang Street in Barangay Pio del Pilar. The victim was reportedly engaged in a drinking spree with friends when the suspects, on board a motorcycle and wearing bull-face helmets, attacked by shooting him repeatedly. Authorities recovered several empty shells at the scene of the crime. Tina G. Santos

Radiation surges in sea near Japan nuke plant

SENDAI, Japan—Radiation levels have surged to seawater near a tsunami-stricken nuclear power station in Japan, officials said Saturday, as engineers battled to stabilize the plant in hazardous conditions.

Urgent efforts were under way to drain pools of highly radioactive water near the reactors, after several workers sustained radiation burns while installing cables as part of efforts to restore the critical cooling systems.

The new safety worries for the complicated efforts to bring the aging facility under control, and raised fears that the fuel rods' wounds on three reactors will prove very hard to heal.

"It is becoming very important to get rid of the puddles quickly," said an official at the nuclear safety agency, Hidehiko Nishiyama.

One of the worst-case scenarios at nuclear plants would be that the fuel inside the reactor core—a volatile uranium-plutonium mix—has already started to burn its way through its steel pressure vessel.

Fire engines have hosed thousands of tons of seawater onto the plant in a bid to keep the fuel rods inside reactor cores and pools from being exposed to the air, where they could reach critical stage and go into full meltdown.

Several hundred meters offshore in the Pacific Ocean, levels of iodine-131 some 1,250 times the legal limit were detected Saturday, a tenfold increase from just days earlier, operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (Tepco) said.

Drinking a half liter bottle of fresh water with the same concentration would expose a person to their annual safe dose, Nishiyama said, but he ruled out an immediate threat to aquatic life and seafood safety.

"Seawater will be diluted further by material released into the sea will spread due to tides, so you need much more for seaweed and sea life to absorb it," he said.

Because iodine-131 decays relatively quickly with a half-life of eight days, "I think these people eat the sea products, so amount is likely to have diminished significantly," he said.

However, Tepco also reported levels of cesium-137—which has a longer half-life of about 30 years—almost 80 times the legal maximum. Emissions say both radioactive substances can cause cancer if absorbed by humans.

The government's assessment did little to lift the gloom that has hung over Japan since a 9.0 magnitude quake struck on March 11 and sent a huge tsunami crashing into the northeast coast in the country's worst post-war disaster.

The wave easily overwhelmed the world's biggest sea defenses and swallowed entire communities. The confirmed death toll rose to 10,151 on Saturday with little hope given for most of the 17,002 list of the missing.

The tsunami knocked out the cooling systems for the six reactors of the Fukushima plant, leading to suspected partial meltdowns in three of them. Hydrogen explosions and fires have also ripped through the facility.

High-voltage electric utilities have since been linked again to the reactors again and power has been partially restored in two reactor control rooms.

Worried about the safe buildup in the crippled plant, engineers have started pumping in fresh water into some of the reactors. The United States military is supporting the effort by sending two full water tankers from a naval base near Tokyo.

"I believe we have prevented the current situation worsening, taking steps towards realprogress such as restoring power and injecting water," chief government spokesperson Yukio Edano told reporters.

Radioactive vapor from the plant has contaminated farm produce and dairy products in the region, leading to shipment bans in Japan as well as the United States, European Union, China and a host of other nations.

Higher than normal radiation has also been detected in tap water in and around Tokyo, some 250 kilometers from the plant, leading authorities to issue stage-by-stage warnings to new mothers not to give infants tap water.

Japan widened the zone around the plant where it suggests people evacuate, to 30 kilometers—still farther than the 80 kilometers advised by the United States, and larger areas including Tokyo to other nations' advice.

Environmental watchdog Greenpeace started its own monitoring near the plant, charging that "authorities have consistently appeared to underestimate both the risks and extent of radioactive contamination." AFP

1ST SIGNIFICANT VICTORY

Libya rebs seize key oil town

AJDABIYA, Libya—Libyan rebels seized control of the strategic oil town of Ajdabiya on Saturday, marking their first significant victory over Colonel Moammar Gadhafi's forces near the coast of the Western air strikes a week ago.

The rebels, backed by a barrage of Western bombardments, powered into the town, leaving a trail of destroyed tanks and military vehicles along the road, AFP correspondents at the scene reported.

The fall of the town's two pro-Gadhafi fighters lay on the ground, surrounded by rebel-fired shell casings, while a mosque and many houses bore the scars of heavy shelling as the rebels celebrated, firing shots into the air and shouting "God is greater." Regime loyalists had dug in after leaving Ajdabiya en route to Sirte, withdrawing the first condition air strikes. They were ordered by residents of to making the population.

Resident Ibrahim Saleh, 34, told AFP: "The tanks were firing on the houses nonstop. I couldn't move from my house for days. There was no water to fuel or communications, and many people were not even to get fuel they were fired on.

"The conditions air strikes were yesterday and the day before. They attacked from the desert and the revolutionaries came in other wards and freed the city," he said.

Ajdabiya is the first town to fall back into rebel hands after months of residents of Western forces launched United Nations backed air strikes on March 19 to stop forces loyal to Gadhafi smashing civilians.

Elsewhere, huge explosions shook a military site in an eastern suburb of Tripoli early Sunday as Western forces jolted journalists from their sleep in central hotels, a witness told AFP.

The blasts left a radar facility in flames in Tajura, home to several military bases, a witness told AFP.

"The shower was shaken by three explosions in succession," the resident said, adding that the explosions had shattered windows.

"The raid targeted a military radar site which is still on fire," the resident, who lives close by, added.

United States officials said the relentless pressure on Gadhafi and his allies was beginning to take its toll, and that the overall Libyan leader was running volunteers.

"We've received reports today that he has taken to arming what he calls volunteers to fight the opposition," said US Vice Adm. William Gortney.

Until now, Gadhafi is believed to have relied on militias run by his sons as well as African mercenaries to fight poorly armed but determined opposition forces.

Gadhafi "has virtually no air defense left to him and a diminishing ability to command and sustain his forces on the ground," said Gortney following the UN-mandated air strikes launched by the United States, Britain and France.

"His air force cannot fly, his warships are staying in port, his communications nodes are being destroyed, communications towers are being toppled, his command bunkers rendered useless," Gortney said.

Gadhafi forces opened up with artillery on the rebel city of Misrata, 214 kilometers east of Tripoli, killing a child and injuring nine children late Friday, a witness told AFP.

"The artillery shelling has been going on since Thursday night," said the witness contacted by telephone. "They are firing on everything that moves." There is no water, no electricity and supplies are running short," in Misrata, Libya's third city, he said, adding residents were cowering indoors.

All warships and submarines had fired Syrian Tomahawk cruise missiles at Libyan targets in the 24 hours to 0600 GMT Friday, the Pentagon said, adding that coalition warplanes carried out 153 sorties over the same period.

The total number of Tomahawks launched at Libya rose to at least 170.

Libyan state television reported warplanes also carried out raids late Friday on the coastal town of Zliten, 160 kilometers east of Tripoli.

Gadhafi also appeared to be showing signs of strain as his key allies put on brave resilience, possibly now an exit strategy. AFP

700,000 flee Ivory Coast violence—UN

DAKAR, Senegal—At least 700,000 people have fled their homes in Ivory Coast's main city, Abidjan, to escape the increasing violence and collapsing economy stemming from the nation's political crisis, the United Nations said Friday.

Daily gunfire spurred by Laurent Gbagbo's efforts to stay in power after losing a presidential election to Alassane Ouattara has prodded thousands of residents out of neighborhoods surrounding the city's central districts, while the closing of banks and businesses have led to widespread unemployment.

"The massive displacement in Abidjan and elsewhere is being fueled by fears of all-out war," a spokesperson of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees told reporters Thursday in Geneva, estimating that 700,000 to 1 million people had already left their homes.

Bus terminals are overcrowded with passengers desperate to get seats on vehicles heading to northern, central and eastern parts of the country, Sidiki Diabate has been on fighting to fee," an agency spokesperson, Melissa Fleming, said.

In Abidjan, Gbagbo's security forces have waged an armed campaign against neighborhoods loyal to the man recognized by international bodies as the winner of the presidential election on November. Gunmen killed at least 25 people with mortar shells at a market last week, the United Nations said.

The month, unarmed demonstrators against his rule were mowed down with machine-gun fire. Guerrilla fighters have staged attacks against Gbagbo's forces in northern, western and central Ivory Coast, while civilians caught in the crossfire, are now deserting neighborhoods wholesale.

The United Nations and African political bodies have been unable to stop the attacks on civilians, despite the presence of a large UN peacekeeping force in Abidjan and repeated visits in the city by political leaders from across the continent seeking to mediate a settlement. New York Times/News Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Aftershocks rattle Burma as toll tops 70

MANDALAY, Burma—Aftershocks continued in Burma (Myanmar) on Friday, and residents camped out on streets and in parks, praying at makeshift shrines, after a major earthquake the night before killed more than 70 people, injured hundreds and shattered hundreds of buildings. The country's worst since left to neighboring Thailand and China, whose tremors were felt as far away as Bangkok. Bangkok, as well as in southern China, in Kunming and in Burma's main city, Rangoon, hundreds of kilometers away. In a rising unusually sound, the state-run media reported that 74 people had been killed and 111 had been injured. It added that 388 houses, 14 monasteries and nine government buildings had been damaged.

New York Times News Service

Riot police destroy protesters' camp in Amman

AMMAN, Jordan—Riot police stormed pro-democracy rally here in the Jordanian capital on Friday, leaving one man dead, injuring scores of other people and disarming with water cannons a 1,000-person tent camp set up the previous day to resemble Tahrir Square in Cairo. Witnesses said the violence—the worst since thousands of Jews began in Jordan in January—came after about 200 prayer-meant counterdemonstrators using sticks and rocks attacked the protesters, who fought back. The riot police were called in, and they broke up the fighting as well as the tent camp. The minister Bhisbey said the man who died in the fighting, Khairi Jamil Saad, 58, an unemployed father of five, had suffered a fatal heart attack. But his son Nasser Saad said in an interview that the riot police had attacked and beaten his father, and he said he saw his father's body at the hospital. His teeth were broken, and he had signs of having beaten on his hands, legs and ears.

New York Times/News Service

Yemen leader to yield power only to 'safe hands'

SANAA, Yemen—As hundreds of thousands of demonstrators for and against President Ali Abdullah Saleh poured into their both that he was ready to yield power if he could hand it over to "safe hands." His comments, in a rally of about 100,000 supporters in the center of Sanaa, seemed to his earlier promises to relinquish power conditionally and not immediately, terms the protesters demanding his ouster have rejected. But as he negotiates his exit behind the scenes, the rally appeared calculated to show both that his regime was crowded that eventually and that he could still muster a strong show of support, giving him more leverage to negotiate his departure as his terms. The antigovernment protesters, centered in front of Sanaa University about two miles away, also drew about 100,000 people, as they did last Friday. At the rally last week, government-linked snipers killed more than 50 protesters, prompting a wave of defections of high-level government officials. The rallies Friday were largely peaceful, a small, analysts said, of the government's recognition that the violence had backfired.

New York Times News Service

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ruivo

Troops kill dozens of protesters in Syria

CAIRO—Military troops opened fire on peaceful demonstrators in the southern city of Daraa and in other cities and towns took to the streets in defiance of the state, Human rights groups said that before Friday, 39 people had been killed by government forces since the protests began seven days ago.

For the first time Friday, protests called for the downfall of the government and in one instance tore down a billboard-size photo of Syria's president, Bashar Assad.

It was the most serious challenge in 48 years of repressive rule by the al-Assad family since 1982, when the president at the time, Hafez al-Assad, massacred at least 10,000 protesters in Hama, a city in northern Syria.

Precise details of the deadly crackdowns were hard to obtain because the government sealed off the area to reporters and would not let foreign media in to the country.

"Syria's security forces are showing the same cruel disregard for protesters' lives as their counterparts in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Bahrain," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

The new round of protests and bloodshed came a day after the Syrian government tried to appease an increasingly angry popular crowd with talk of improved political freedoms and promises of restraint.

Instead, it unleashed its forces, firing on peaceful demonstrators in and near Daraa, according to witness. There were reports of security forces firing on civilians in cities around the country as well.

Ahmed Bayanna, the imam of the Omari mosque in Daraa, said the violence began after crowds set a fire under a statue of Hafez al-Assad, the current president's father, igniting by telephone. Bayanna said thousands of people gathered near the statue after Friday Prayer when officers from Syria's criminal security forces killed tear gas canisters and opened fire with live ammunition. He said about 20 people were killed, and many more wounded.

In Jassamaya, a city of 27,000 people about 40 miles north of Daraa, a video posted on YouTube showed at least seven bloodied bodies lying on stretchers, at least three clearly with gunshot wounds. Between 15 to 25 people were killed there, while residents told The Associated Press that as many as 20 people had been killed. These figures that could not be independently confirmed.

New York Times News Service

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Patrombon eyes revenge vs Australian
/A27

Sunday SPORTS
Letty Tesiorna S. Manonsit, Assistant Editor Francis S. L. Ortiz

Up next: Azkals 'Dream Team'

PHILIPPINES-BANGLADESH striker Angel Aldeguer Guirado (#11) of the Philippines leaps for joy amid a group of his fellow Bangladesh players after beating the Azkals in a 3-0 triumph.

By Cindell P. Tupas

RANGOON—Preaming as it is now, the Philippine Football Team is only bound to get stronger.

PHI's many key players will get to extra duty years for the squad, the talk of an Azkals "Dream Team" for the 2014 World Cup qualifiers gathered steam here shortly after they got the job done in the AFC Challenge Cup group qualifying tournament.

"We hope to assemble the Dream Team for the World Cup qualifiers," said team manager Dan Palami, the man credited for the Azkals' rise from obscurity "We just played 60 percent of our potential here. We can build an even better team."

The Azkals won one match—a 3-0 drubbing of Bangladesh—after drawing with Myanmar and Palestine to secure qualification to the next phase in the company of India, Turkmenistan and Maldives, which have earlier booked their places.

Together with regulars in the squad like Neil Etheridge, Aly Borromeo, Anton del Rosario, Chieffy Caligdong, Ray Jonsson, Rob Gier, Simon Greatwich and Phil and James Younghusband, and newcomers Jerry Lucena and Angel Aldeguer Guirado, the "Dream Team" will include the Filipino-German eighth Stephan Schrock and Filipino-Finnish left-back Dennis Cagara.

The first round of qualifying is scheduled in June and July, but the Azkals' opponents will be known March 28 when the draw is held in the AFC office in Kuala Lumpur.

Palami said the team will be given a one-month break to attend to several commitments.

During their break, the Azkals will also undertake relief operations in Palami's hometown, Tacloban City, which was hit by heavy rains that caused floods recently.

"The team has been very fortunate to have survived several natural calamities," said Palami, whose squad was training in Japan when

UP NEXT/ A27

Old and new strike for PH booters

By Cindell P. Tupas

RANGOON—Ian Araneta was in the midst of a long lamentspell, while Angel Aldeguer Guirado nursed another game to prove that his dazzling performance in the opener against Myanmar in the AFC Challenge Cup qualifying tournament here was no fluke.

Under pressure to deliver, the two strikers joined forces to propel the Philippines to a 3-0 rout over Bangladesh that clinched the Azkals' place in the final tourna-

ment next year.

"It felt like I scored for the first time," a relieved Araneta, one of six players to be national squad from Bacolod Negros, told the Inquirer. "This is my most memorable goal yet."

Araneta pounced on the conclusion inside the Bangladesh penalty box, striking a left-footed shot that ran parallel to open the scoring

/A28

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Patrombon eyes revenge vs Australian

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP SEED Filipino Jason Patrombon pulled off another three-set escape yesterday, this time 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) win over Serbia's Predja Krstin, to bump into the boys' singles final of the 22nd MO-robiki Lancer International junior tennis championships.

Patrombon blew a 5-3 lead in the third set but won four straight points from 3-all in the tiebreak while battling cramps on both legs to prevail in two hours and 43 minutes at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

"He's so good, and today he played so well," said Patrombon in Filipino after duplicating his conquest of Krstin in Malaysia last week.

Patrombon, who missed the championship in the Thailand and Vietnam stops, will try to go all the way on his 16th birthday today.

Facing Patrombon in the finals again will be Australian qualifier Reid Andrew Pilbrow-gene, who turned his compatriot and fourth seed Luke Saville, 6-2, 6-3, in the other semis.

"I will get back at him," said the Filipino world No. 9 of Pilbrowgene, who beat him last week for the Malaysian leg title.

In the girls' singles, third pick Anne Liv-lanne of Estonia busted out Hiba Miyazaki of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4, to arrange a final duel with fourth seed Jessica Aiken. Aiken crushed Hi-mawan Dana Tourism Cadet, 6-3, 6-3.

Will Krstin eat of the way south Manny Tecson and Patrombon will spend the whole afternoon with his physiotherapist to prime him up for Wimbledon.

Patrombon actually holds a 2-1 edge over the Australian in their head-to-head matches, but the Filipino needs to recover after he was also extended to three sets in the round of 16 and in the quarterfinals.

He was actually cramping up in the tiebreak where he also lost a 3-0 lead. But instead of folding up, Patrombon picked up his game to score four straight points.

The tournament is the third straight JIT Grade 5 event for Patrombon, who is set to join the pro circuit in his next campaign.

JASON Patrombon returns the ball to Predja Krstin yesterday. KEN SEVILLA

Ticklish Donaire Jr. questions

ALTHOUGH THE press conference being hosted by GMA 7 was for Donaire Jr. was opened off with Thai boxer Saman "Sillaluang" Chuayong yesterday at the Venice Center in Augusto, Rizal, network executive Rikki Jarod, city was prompted to answer some ticklish questions involving Nonito Donaire Jr.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

For example, Rikki was asked why GMA 7 did not host a press conference for Donaire before it after his last two fights and he network media in the past.

While all the Top Rank fights, except those of Manny Pacquiao, are telecast over ABS-CBN, Nonito has a contract with GMA as a three-in-talent.

Rikki confirmed that GMA's contract with Donaire was still good. It wasn't clear though why the press conference have stopped.

* * *

Asked if the release of Donaire's future fights could be moved to GMA 7 should the champion's contract with Golden Boy Promotions be validated, Rikki said it was possible. However, she quickly cited the very same situation Pacquiao found himself in after signing up with Golden Boy when he still had a valid contract with Top Rank.

Top Rank won the battle and Arum kept Pacquiao, who obviously is from since ruled to move away from one.

* * *

The reigning WBC International minimumweight champion from Guimaras, Iloilo, Cuello was expected to handily beat Sarum, a former strawweight fighters, who only has six boxing bouts to his name (6-5-1).

A win by Cuello would move him closer to a dream title bout with Japan's Kazuo Ioka, the current WBC minimumweight champion.

* * *

Perry Mariano and Bali-ile Leon of the newly formed Billiards League (B-League) are eager to discover new talents from the ongoing inaugural season which will conclude March 28, Monday, at SM Manila.

"We're inviting all billiards enthusiasts to watch the championship at SM," Bali said.

"Pero't and I hope to have billiards' own version of the glamorous Aklan. Watch out for these guys: Hardley Mariano of La Salle, Ej Bautista of St. Marks, John Mariano and Brad Go of Mapua, Simoli Te of Xavier."

Bali is inviting those who want to join the B-League to register at the Harness Sports along West Avenue in Quezon City corner Ely Way Madonna.

* * *

It's hard to believe the sport passed on to me by my colleague, The Inquirer.

In fact, he himself said that it was "implausible" for former PBC chair Pepsy Jasul to take over the Penafa, currently headed by Go Teng Kok.

My colleague said Jasul and PSE president Pepsi Consuegra are not related, as if that would explain his point.

I did a little probing. As it turned out, it was GMC himself who has been convincing Pepsi to join the Penafa.

In what capacity, I'm not too clear though.

* * *

HOOPSHE: Did Bob Arum really call Rashel Donaire a witch? Media friends who were in Baguio to cover Manny Pacquiao's training sensed the Top Rank promoter really said it out loud during an informal press briefing.

... Bob Arum said Rashel Donaire like a ... Donaire Jr. Rashel line gone-Arum's goat ... The former Cecilia-Samar Chuayong fight will be aired over GMA 7 at 10 a.m. today simulcast over 4848 Super Radyo 104.

WESLEY SO

Tagaytay favored in Aklan chessfest

WITH GRANDMASTER Wesley So at the helm, Tagaytay City is tagged the early favorite when the 2011 National Inter-Provincial chess team championships is held April 1-5 at the Gilmore Training Center in Kalibo, Aklan.

So, the country's highest-rated player, will man the top board for Tagaytay of Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino in the event organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines in cooperation with the Aklan provincial government through Gov. Carlito S. Marquez.

Also expected to contend for the 19-30,000 top prize are defending champion DepEd-Quezon City of GM John Paul Gomez and Mindanao Odyssey of GM Mark Bhargue.

The other teams and their respective spearheads are Bicol of International Master Oliver Barbosa, Cebu of GM Rey Steven Rap, Makati of Darwin Elorta, Laguna of Vide Master Roberto Nava, Mandaluyong of NM Leonardo Aldana, Caloocan of NM Reggie Oliz, Edmundo Gatdula of Bulacan, LINGA-Quezon City II of NM Paulo Bersamina, LINGA-Quezon City C of WNM Jedara Taneza, DepEd-Pasig of NM Jose Mollo, Lanao del Sur of NM Roger Sarip, Club 64-Iloilo Province of NM Rodolfo Reyneles, Antipolo of NM Michael Lequigan, Iloilo City of NM Jayson Villanueva, Cagayan of NM Dennis Jason, South Cotabato of WNM Carol Mariano, Ilagan City of NM Fernandito Padua and Benguet-Abra of NM Wilfredo Ibat.

The games up and the third place team will get P70,000 and P50,000, respectively.

NCFP president Prospero "Pinoy" Pichay will make the ceremonial moves with Gov. Marquez.

NCFP executive director Willie Alaban said the participating teams can field in four regular players and three alternates. Teams, however, can only field one titled player. Top individual performers from boards one to five will also get P2,000 each plus medals.

For details, call 02-3017324, or cell 0999-1760889 and 0920-2284218, or e-mail at NCFPsecretariat@yahoo.com.

NCFP regional director and Aklan sports coordinator Willie Sawit is also available for info at 0920-5636732.

Ben Luarca

SPORTSWATCH

Coach E classes this week

COACH E Basketball School classes open this week at San Juan, Makati and San Beda Alabang as the international Basketball Association (IBA) played a personalized and scientific learning experience with a touch twist.

IBA Jet Premier said students can really display their new skills during friendly games as the 10-session modules will consist of 5 training days and 4 game days.

For details, SMART 0918-9454041 or 0920-9818887. E-mail at info@ibajet.com or check out the website ibajet.com.ph to visit. The schools now also on facebook.com/pages/ibajet-basketball-school and twitter.com/ibahoops.

Xavier School classes will be from March 28 to April 15, every Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The 7 years old below and 11 years old and above and 10 am to 12 noon for the 12 years old.

Summer tennis camp slated

THE South Forbes Summer Tennis Camp is slated to start on March 28 at the 3 outdoor courts of the Philippine Marine Club in Taguig City.

Classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced level players should be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for 10 sessions from March 29 to May 14.

The camp is supported by the Henry Lee Foundation and Sunday Balls. For details, call 37-14668, 837-9847 or 0920-2136179.

Karting clinic hopefuls

YOUNG RACING HOPEFULS got their last chance to be discovered this year as the Carbid Champions of the Future discovery program stages the last of its karting clinics on April 3 at the Carmona Racetrack, Cavite.

Registration is open for kids aged seven to 13 years old. Applicants must not exceed the host and maximum of 50 riders.

More than 80 aspirants joined the previous three clinics with Raymond Ryan Cuizon, William Canonizado and Peter Madrinan handing 1-2-3 in the kickoff race.

Registration fees P1,000.

Twenty additional slots may still be given to the most deserving kids after the clinics and those qualified will be battling each other in the four-leg 2011 Carbid Champions of the Future Series.

Ochoa, Espino grace Super Series start

THE 2011 Petrol Karting Super Series debuts today at the Carmona Racetrack featuring aspiring and Representative Motorsports director Jose "Dino" Ochoa and AAP steward Jun Espino as guests of honor.

Ochoa will keynote the opening ceremonies at 11:30 a.m. right after the qualifying time trials and the qualifying leads of the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and hosted by Petron San Miguel Corp. Clerico Hilbert Pineda and Fukuhara.

Espino will christen the race open while Philippine Motorsports publisher Johnny Tan will deliver the closing remarks. Leading the path of sponsorship are last year's top winners—Mark Escalada, Jeffer Calderon, Joseph Marvin Rojo, Rudy Bendo, Fraser Reyes and Dolano Marvin.

Religion derby March 30

THE MAT AND CARP! 4-cock derby gets going at Religion Mega Cockpit on March 30.

24 top prize of P400,000 will be staked for an entry fee of P8,888. Minimum bet is P1,000.

Nicely Nice Cuneta and Sunny Tu expect about 48 entries for this event. For details, call 851-2078 and 8331-8888.

Frayna tops SM Rosales tilt

ROSALES, PANGASINAN—Jamille Mae Frayna of FEU-FERN college topped the second leg of the 2011 Philippine Academy for Chinese Culture Non-Sectarian Chess Academy age group chess championships held at the SM City Rosales recently.

Frayna, a 14-year-old campaigner from Bicol, finished with 4.5 points on four wins and one draw in the tournament organized by Rosales in cooperation with the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and Rosales Mayor Ricardo A. Davies.

Frayna's only draw came against Palco Mark Aquino of San Nicolas, Pangasinan. She topped five campaigns with a win over teammate Eyrien Alfa in the fifth round.

Sharing the limelight were Rosales-Canossa of Colossians Jose Loreto School, who edged Jamaicalie Elo Bertin of Nandor North Central School in the tiebreak to win the 14 years old and under category. Daniel Abacan of Mount Central School, who topped the 11 years old and under class, and Junnie Lou Ygot of Bonifacio Bolito, who raked the eight to ten division.

The 11-year-old Cotton, a sixth grader from Columbarian East Central, and Bertin, also 11 a fifth grader from Rosales North, finished with identical scores but Cotton earned the title by virtue of higher tiebreak score.

IBP secretary-general Rey Bagtades awarded the trophies and cash prizes, assisted by Benjamin Chen Federation president Jean B. Sison and NCFP director for grassroots and development programs and Base president GM Jayson Gonzales.

All leg winners earn the right to play in the Tagaytay leg slated Dec. 26-28 with the champions representing the country in the 2011 Singapore Youth Chess Festival on Dec. 30-31.

Tiu, Go log drag race victories

JOY BLANCHE Racing's Jonathan Tiu and Anthony Go are back on the rails and following separate victories recently in the second leg of the 2011 National Drag Racing Championship Southern Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit Drag Strip in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Tiu, the eight-time drag racing champion, reasserted his supremacy in the Quick 8 class for his first season triumph in the event supported by Super Sports, Yokohama Philippines, Diamond Mag, Racing Boots/Petron 90-1 PH, licensed, and sanctioned by the Association of Motorsports Philippines.

Go boosted his bid for back-to-back titles after he ruled the Pro class.

Tiu made it to the finals after running back

TIU

to Norman Alexandrino of SD Autowerx and Go in the early goings. He faced Southern's big kickoff winner IM Dumatol of Team Sumpak, who bested Christ Wood Cruz of Summer and Norman de la Rosa of QSR.

In the final duel, exhaustion took its toll on Dumatol, who clocked 11.045 seconds against Tiu who handily won with a time of 10.600 seconds.

Go, the Quick 8 titled player, reinvented himself when he stepped in Pro ride.

CORPORATE CHAMP Team manager Hubert Maglaya (left) receives the championship trophy after Repsol won the Division 1 title in the Corporate Cup at the Camp John Hay Golf and Country Club in Baguio City. Individual trophies were also given to the Repsol team members David Acosijo, Marlon Yu and Popoto Ting.

PBA road trip: Gin Kings outlast skidding E-Painters

By Jane Navarro

BAYANIHAN GINEBRA finally found a way to squeeze out of a tight game yesterday.

The Gin Kings pulled out all stops down the stretch to roll back the Rain Or Shine Elasto Painters, 93-90, in their PBA Phoenix Go Tour showdown at the Peoples Multi-Purpose Complex, Liahonan and Sports Center in Davao Del Norte.

Nino Homeland scored seven of Ginebra's last nine points to finish with 20 points while the Kings laid down a tight defense that led to costly (ten) turnovers, including one from Gabe Norwood with 13 seconds left.

Leading 93-88, Norwood stepped out of bounds and guarded Rain Or Elasto's chances of trimming the lead or even tying the game.

It was the first down-the-wire victory for the Kings, who improved to 3-2 and earned a spot in the six-team playoffs.

Behind by 21 points entering the fourth, the Elasto Painters went on a 30-6 run the combined efforts of Larry Rodriguez, Ryan Arana and Jeff Chan that put them within 85-86, two minutes and 21 seconds remaining.

But the Elasto Painters collapsed and absorbed their fourth straight loss after a 3-Count.

Meanwhile, Greg Slaughter takes over from the injured Marcus Douthit when Ginebra Philippine faces Newcastle today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-10 Douthit, the national reserve naturalized center, hurt his ankle against E-Mag Derby duo last week and Ginebra coach Pablo Trevisan decided to reserve him for Wednesday's game against Barangay Ginebra.

Trevisan said he is gambling on the services of Slaughter in the 4 p.m. game and the Hallmarks (0-5) take Talk'N Text (1-4) on top.

The Llanderal duel: Rizal Tillie (9-2) in his debut of the conference by replacing the absence of Douthit, who limped out of the game in the third period.

Derby Ace (1-4) tries to follow up its Smart Gilas conquest with a new import when it tackles fellow cheeller San Miguel Beer (2-4) at the 6:30 coupling.

Courtney Sterling, a Southern Mississippi product who topped Shannon Spence on the E-Mag roster.

Previous

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Courtney Sterling, a Southern Mississippi product who topped Shannon Spence on the E-Mag roster.

Previous

Turo feels new back at old job

By Jasmine N. Payo

HE MAY be a familiar figure in San Sebastian, but coach Antonio "Turo" Valenzona feels new to his job again.

Valenzona, back in San Sebastian's helm after a decade, said there's more work to do even if the Stags boast a practically intact roster.

"I'm happy that I'm coaching San Sebastian again, but we're starting all over," Valenzona said in Filipino.

Their chief target this season is the 2011 PBDA Flying V Premium Premier Cup, where the Stags are picked among the favorites.

It's quite a similar situation for the University of the East Warriors, who tapped Jerry Codiñera as their new coach.

Before turning into a pro ace, Codiñera **drove with Allan Caidic during the Warriors' last UAAP title reign in 1994 and 1995.**

"It will surely be difficult since it's my first time to coach a college team but we'll do our best to have a good run," said Codiñera.

The turn-up tournament fires off on April 9 with 17 varsity squads vying for the title.

The 60-year-old Valenzona, who called the shots during San Sebastian's glory years in the 1990s, replaced Nic Agustin early this month.

Agustin, who stepped down to coach San Miguel Beer in the pro league, guided the Stags to the 2009 season before San Beda consoled them in last year's Finals.

Despite inheriting a solid lineup led by despite Calvin Abueva, Valenzona said it **might not be as easy when he entered the** Stags to four straight NCAA championships starting in 1997.

"I'll assess that at a different lineup and it has been a long time since I was here," said Valenzona, who also guided the Stags during their 2001 and 2002 title runs.

"We'll just take it slowly."

DWYANE Wade scores 31 in a Miami Heat victory

Lakers notch 7th straight victory

LOS ANGELES—The red-hot Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to seven games with a 112-104 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers at the Staples Center on Friday.

The Lakers have won 14 of 15 games since the All-Star break and now lead Western Conference leading San Antonio by five games following the Spurs' 98-96 loss to the Portland Trail Blazers.

Although the Lakers opened a 16-point lead in the first quarter and led wire-to-wire, the Clippers stayed in touch throughout to prevent the home team from feeling comfortable until the final minute.

Fielding a four-point lead with 10 seconds remaining, Ron Artest halted Blake Griffin's drive to the basket with a clean steal and the Lakers clinched the win with the final free throws.

"We [weren't] made some rather spectacular steps," Lakers head coach Phil Jackson told reporters. "But the one where he took the ball away from Blake in a breakaway and he narrowed the game down to a standstill was a big play for us. You know, that's the force, he's maybe the best at that."

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 27 points, Artest added 15 and Andrew Bynum returned from a two-game suspension to log a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Lakers forward Pau Gasol, who pledged to donate $1,000 to help the Japan earthquake victims, scored 26.

Nic Williams scored a season-high 30 points, and Griffin added 22, including a couple of spectacular midrange dunks. The Clippers' woes, however, let down by a seven-point effort from their leading scorer Eric Gordon who averages 23.7 points per game.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, LeBron James finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds of his own, as the Heat edged the Philadelphia 76ers, 111-99.

In Boston, Jason Cunningham hit a 15-foot jumper with 24 seconds left as the Charlotte Bobcats erased a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter to nip the struggling Celtics, 89-91.

Previous

Ikeda captures Thailand Ladies plum

CHIBA JEDA rallied from four shots down with two birdies in the last six holes then pounced on ICTSI teammate Lorelynn Gonzaga's triple bogey on the final hole to snatch a one-stroke victory over Thailand Ladies Open at Bangkok Golf Club Friday.

Ikeda also holed out with a bogey on the tough par-4 closing hole but her one-under 71 was enough to propel her to the win as she posted a 54-hole aggregate of 214.

Dottie Ardina fired a 70 and edged Gonzaga in the countback for runner-up honors at 216. The second round leader bobbled home with a 73, blowing away her title lead on the final hole with a triple bogey.

"I just stayed focused and never lost hope even if I fell behind by as many as four strokes at the back," said Ikeda.

Gonzaga also kept going even taking her overnight one-shot lead to four after Ikeda drew paired No. 12 for double-bogey but Gonzaga dropped a stroke on the next hole which Ikeda birdied for a two-stroke swing then yielded another stroke when she bogeyed No. 16.

Still, Gonzaga took a one-shot lead heading to the 18th after both players birdied the 17th but she pulled her 3-wood tee shot into the water hazard and dumped her third shot into the greenside bunker.

IKEDA

SEVERA

PBaRS national tourney fires off today

THE URAKU Sr. badminton national ranking points league today when top doubles battle for supremacy in the 35 million Philippine Badminton Ranking System (PBaRS) tournament in Pinoy Smash in Makati City.

Reigning national players Melvin Llanes, Lloyd Ibuyan and Jaime Llanes, current PH team members Japer Parrenas, Paul Vivas, Jason Magsayo, Janelle de Vera and Bernice Barredo, and the reinstated bunch of Antonino Roa, Eddie Castillo, Constantin Luis, Nikki Servando, Kelvin Bergantiños, Constantin Luis and Liel Reyes are some of the top athletes who will flaunt their skills.

Honors in the Open, Under 19 and Under-15 divisions are up for grabs in the eight-day event starting at the Mikol Cup of a four-stage nationwide circuit.

Matches start at 8 a.m.

Organizers of the tournament, sponsored by MVP Sports Foundation-Chad Pilipinas!, Ringo Sonseres Corp. and Victoy, said the series of events is aimed at raising the level of play in the country and at the same time ramping up with a truly national ranking system that would be used to determine the players who will compose the national team to represent international competitions.

"The importance of the ranking is to measure the consistency of each player nearly. With the scheduled dates given at an early time, players can now train and excel on every leg, hence making the ranking more reliable," said tournament chair Nelson Beltran.

Jungolf event gets going tomorrow

MANILA SOUTHWOODS and Alabang Town as the hosts to host to the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines Interclub Championship today off tomorrow at the Splendido Taal Golf and Country Club and the Canlubang Golf Club.

The Southwoods leg of the 54-hole event will be led by Ali Stamm, Mina Legaspi and siblings Marvi and Ivan Monsalve while Alabang will parade Andrea Soldivia, Sebastian Lorenzo, Gabriel Montero and Jana Reyes.

They will be eyeing the centerpiece division 1 crown as some women representing six other clubs in the tourney officially kicking off the ICTSI Junior Golf Circuit.

Alabang's Division 2 roster, meanwhile, includes the tracks sided Bernice Dizon-Ilao.

Also vying for the team and individual awards in three divisions were 54 ladies and Aguinaldo Golf Club, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippine Navy Golf Club, 202 VIP, Ipitan and the Wescina Golf Club.

Old and new

From page A19

at its highest scoring into the tournament and he went largely invisible in the first two games against Myanmar and Palestine, where he was substituted by his uncle, Sani Barrientos, in both matches.

In the end, he merely repaid coach Michael 'Mitoy' Dath in kind.

"I was a little confused if I had to give him another chance or not but we had to go by our tapes and we had him and Barrientos," Peiris said. "The plan worked."

Not much was expected from the Malaysian-based Sumatra, a club of Filipinos and third division City Bonds, before the tournament after forming with the Arkals only a few times in Manila.

But he has fit in quite nicely to the starting lineup and his impressive debut against Myanmar where he created several scoring opportunities for his teammates for another sensational performance.

He didn't disappoint against Bangladesh, scoring on a diving header in the 34th minute, before wrapping up the victory with a strike from just outside the box in minute from time.

But for his teammates, Gumabao wasn't a scorer done just the goals he delivered.

"He makes us look better," defender Basil Gruner said.

"A touch of a good teammate is that even when he's not scoring, he raises the level of play of his teammates," said Iverson.

PSSA PROJECT The Mighty Sports Association (PSA) helps construct a basketball court in and donates basketball equipment to Barangay Bukid 1 and Bukid 2 in Bulacan. Carlito Naipag and its former PBA MVP Kenneth Duremdes, Rufus Tu, Edrich Pormo, Jessie Asumargo and Chris Cleto.

Up next: Azkals 'Dream Team'

From page A19

the strong-willed Spanish hit the country and was also in Myanmar when another former Azkal, the Southeast Asian country.

Palami said Borromeo, Jed Rosario and Chris Greatwich will be looking tryouts in the United States next month, while Ghei will be helping out in looking for players in Europe.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Football Federation is working on getting the hosting rights to one of the group-qualifying tournaments for the 2011 AFC Challenge Cup.

Philippine Olympic Committee chair Monico Puentevella, who is also part of the PFF advisory council, said he has been assured of support by key AFC officials for the country to host the tournament, which could either be held in March or in October of 2011.

"With all due respect to Myanmar, if they can do it, I think we can also do it," said Puentevella, who watched the Philippines' first two matches here.

San Beda hoop clinic listing up

THE 8th Jaime Ilada Chu-Ho basketball camp will hold clinics and training camps starting on April 4 at the Mendiola Manila campus and April 5 at its Taytay, Rizal campus.

Headed by multi-titled coach Edmundo "Ato" Badolato, the annual camp, which is being conducted for members and batchmates of Gabionza, Mother, Dormeo and Crystal Dove, will hold classes in Mendiola during Mondays and Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m. and in Taytay every Tuesday and Friday from 8-11 a.m.

Early registrants will get to pay only P1,500 for eight sessions while those who enrolled in April and May would have to shell out P4,000.

For details, call 7260811 local 2104, 0939-10 50480 and 0927-1 889648.

Organizers are also set to tap some notorious backliners from the PBA to join the sessions.

Confident Casimero eyes 'Baby Face' belt

By Ronnie Mackinnon

FORMER ABAD International champion Johnriel Casimero (14-1, 8 KO's) is confident of winning the IBF Bantamweight title from Southafrica's World "Baby Face" Mthalane (20-3, 17 KO's) when they clash in a double-world title fight card at the Buffalo Indoor Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa today.

Promoter Sammy Gello said told the Inquirer that Casimero, who was some five pounds over the 112 pound limit when he arrived in South Africa on Monday, weighed in at 111.3 pounds at the official weigh-in on Friday while Mthalane came in slightly heavier at 111.8 pounds.

Gello said Casimero "is in shape and has high hopes of winning the title."

Mthalane has conceded that the Filipino challenger "is a very good fighter" but his trainer Nick Durandt insisted that Casimero "doesn't have what it takes to beat my little Zulu (Mthalane) over here."

GATORADE ENGAGES AZKALS INTO SWEAT TEST PROGRAM

Azkals Team undergoes Gatorade Sweat Test Program while preparing for AFC Suzuki Cup

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – THE GATORADE SPORTS SCIENCE INSTITUTE (GSSI) RECENTLY CONDUCTED THE SWEAT TEST PROGRAM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL TEAM, MORE KNOWN AS THE "AZKALS", to ensure that all players are fit and properly hydrated before facing tight matches in the AFC Challenge Cup.

GSSI, Gatorade's research facility, performs the Gatorade Sweat Test among various sports teams to check if the players are properly hydrated as they engage in sports. The information acquired is used by the team physicians to formulate proper hydration protocols and hydration plans which are customized for each athlete.

Steve Romasanta, Marketing Director of Gatorade, explains that the Sweat Test results are essential in helping the Azkals be on top of the games. "We are happy to engage the Azkals in this program. The goal of GSSI is to help improve athletes' performance through research. I am sure that the results of the test will help them develop their hydration plans to further improve their performance in the field."

Left to right: Nino Sinco prepares Aly Borromeo for the sweat patching – an important procedure in the Gatorade Sweat Test Program. James Younghusband grabbed a bottle of Gatorade to rehydrate before practice began on Friday at the University of Makati.

The Gatorade Sweat Test team visited the practice of the Azkals on Friday at the University of Makati before the team departed for Myanmar on Saturday to administer the sweat test. Each member of the team submitted a urine sample, was weighed in and underwent the sweat patching procedure while doing their basic routines during practice.

James Younghusband undergoes sweat patching for the Gatorade Sweat Test.

"It is important to maintain a properly hydrated body especially for athletes like the Azkals because they need enough energy to stay and last in the game. Dehydrated bodies often experience cramps and other muscle-related injuries which hamper their performance," said Nino Sinco (MMS, Athletic Trainer). "These athletes need to make sure that they are able to properly replenish the amount of fluid they lose while sweating. While water is a good refresher, sports drinks like Gatorade offer added nutrients to help the body maintain its energy," explained Sinco.

GATORADE SPORTS SCIENCE INSTITUTE

THE GATORADE SPORTS SCIENCE INSTITUTE

IS GATORADE'S GLOBAL RESEARCH FACILITY FOCUSED ON EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE ON SPORTS NUTRITION, HYDRATION AND EXERCISE SCIENCE. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1988 TO OPTIMIZE THE PERFORMANCE AND SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF ATHLETES.

Roy Johnsson rehydrates with Gatorade.

More than replenishment, Gatorade contains electrolytes and carbohydrates that provide the extra energy boost needed for athletes to be on top of their game. "The Azkals are indeed doing a fantastic job and they have successfully brought football into the consciousness of Filipinos. By engaging them into the sweat test program, Gatorade wants to contribute in helping them improve their game. Not many people are aware but proper hydration is significant to an athlete's performance," Sinco added.

Team Captain Aly Borromeo, James Younghusband, Anton del Rosario, and Emilio "Chieffy" Caligdong were among those who underwent the Gatorade Sweat Test. Phil Younghusband, however, did not participate because of the injury he recently got after the face-off with Mongolia.

Gatorade, the world's #1 sports drink, is the official sports drink of the Philippine Football Team.

Right: Team Captain Aly Borromeo drinks Gatorade to rehydrate after the practice game on Friday at the University of Makati.

ABOUT GATORADE

Gatorade®, the world's leading sports drink, is backed by more than 45 years of research.

Gatorade is scientifically formulated and proven to quench thirst, replace fluids and electrolytes and provide carbohydrate energy to enhance athletic performance. For more information, please visit www.gatorade.com.ph or www.gssiweb.org.

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Under Filipinos, Camp John Hay booms, blooms

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Twenty years of Philippine management of former American bases have yielded mixed results.

But for Camp John Hay, Filipino management of the former base has resulted in a series of business process outsourcing villages, a new adventure theme park, and more hotels that may help make the former John Hay Air Station the dominant tourism complex in northern Luzon.

Headlining new developments in this corner of Luzon is the first motorized zip line theme park operated by Bro. Sup Adventure.

The Subic-based company opened its third facility here in February. It offers Baguio tourists various zip line rides that glide over Camp John Hay's pine tree cover.

Visitors can enjoy features like the Superman ride, Silver Surfer, Canopy Ride, Tree Drop as well as the opportunity to bike around the 1,000-square-meter Tree Top area. Ride packages range from P250 to P950.

Longtime visitors would recognize other changes in the landscape. A new hotel, for example, is rising inside John Hay.

Perhaps the biggest development thus far in Camp John Hay is the P3 billion The Manor Hotel, which will have five 5,000-seat POGOs (Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators).

Alyssa Gordon, acting operations manager of John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), said the Asia Technobix is expected to generate 10,000 jobs for the city. JHMC is the estate management firm of the Subic Government and Development Authority (SBDA).

Apida is perhaps the biggest investor yet to be drawn in Camp John Hay, after its 25-year lease was won in 1996 by PJ Lhuillier and Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevcor).

CJHDevcor brought in close to P1.5 billion in projects, which include the John Hay Manor and the John Hay Suites.

But it has always been a love-hate relationship between Baguio residents and the business interests that are helping shape John Hay into a tourism estate.

Baguio businessmen joined protest rallies organized by local civic groups when the government originally planned to lease the facility to a foreign company shortly after the Department of Tourism (DoT) took custody of all base lands in the early 1990s. The government soon created the BCDA to oversee all former American base lands.

Owing to a special set of conditions, the rainforest-fanned, aggressive Camp John Hay's development in 1994.

But a series of legal entanglements encountered delays in the implementation of projects. A Supreme Court ruling which addressed a Camp John Hay case led to the nullification of the tax incentives granted to its developer, CJHDevcor.

The same case affected all other special economic zones administered by BCDA, except for Subic Bay Freeport's. Former mayors confirmed CJHDevcor—seen to expand rent, which grew because of the court ruling.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan shepherded a measure that restored the incentives of those BCDA zones, including Baguio, during his term as Baguio congressman.

Domogan, who ran the city at the time Camp John Hay was being prepared for development, said: "I am very happy about the gains made by Camp John Hay that in spite of all the frustrations his developers encountered.

With a report from Elmar Kristers Bacojo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE MANOR. One of Baguio's high-class hotels is in Camp John Hay.

CAMP John Hay is a favorite hangout of golfers.

SOUVENIRS made by Cordillera artisan await buyers.

RESIDENTS say sun rises over a quiet...

IN THIS ISSUE

Tradition breeds profits for Kalinga town / B4

Quaint chateau offers corporate amenities / B3

People find their calling in artificial insemination

By Kimberly Rogue
Inquirer Central Luzon

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—It dawns on a typical working day. Gerlacho Agustin, 37, would get up, ride his motorcycle to go to a farmer's carousel and, once there, he would take out from his backpack the insemination gun.

Once he's done, Agustin would travel to another farmland to another village to provide artificial insemination (AI) service.

Other farmers wait their turn throughout the day.

"It's a good job. Daily farmers is different places produces quality breed animals, which can provide tons of milk to each," says Agustin, a resident of Talavera, Nueva Ecija.

In nearby Subicao, another 41 technician, Eduardo Manuzon, 29, is also on his way to his 10 farmers.

Manuzon of Barangay Baltazar in San Miguel's care not only administers AI on customer, he also does cattle "pregnancy" examination.

Agustin and Manuzon take pride in being village-based artificial insemination technicians (VBAIT).

AI is a process by which sperm of quality bulls is extracted and injected into the reproductive tract of female farm animals. The earnings of an AI expert are substantial, so are the revenues generated by the farmers they serve.

"I get from P15,000 to P20,000 a month, depending on the season for breeding," Agustin said.

Manuzon is now known far and wide in his province and beyond. He owns extensive cattle from Candaba in Pampanga. He earns up to P50,000 a month.

In 2009, Manuzon administered 80 to 100 inseminations, which gave birth to 267 crossbred calves in 2010. This represents a success rate of 60-35 percent, which is above the national average of 60 percent.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), which monitors his activities, cited Manuzon as its most outstanding VBAIT. He was given a citation on March 23 during PCC's 13th anniversary celebration.

Agustin and Manuzon are both high school graduates. They became technicians after they took a 24-day live training on artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis offered by PCC.

Agustin finished his training in 2003 while Manuzon completed his in 2006. There are about 66 VBAITs in Central Luzon, says Dr. Jolanito Mamuad, PCC deputy executive director.

Throughout the country there are about 1,000 VBAIT serving farmers, Mamuad adds.

"Developing village-based technicians was [the idea] of our executive director Dr. Librando Cruz to help in the crossbreeding program for carabaos," Mamuad says.

Cruz observed that the number of government livestock technicians, including those of PCC, was not enough to cover remote areas. So the agency launched a program to train VBAITs, adds Mamuad.

"[Cruz] wants to train as many as 2,000 VBAITs so that as one in the Visayas and Mindanao can also be served," he says.

PCC began training VBAITs in 2003. Prospective VBAITs learn the anatomy of a female carabao's reproductive organ, its reproductive cycle, the function of a bull's semen and contemporary and techniques in artificial insemination.

Mamuad says VBAITs are also trained to detect signs that indicate how a female carabao will behave.

VBAITs usually bring their own liquid nitrogen tanks, AI injection guns, gloves, scissors and, behind the frozen semen, plastic sheaths, semen straws and others, semen straw forceps, thermometer during jan, lubricants and disinfectants.

PCC supplies them with materials, half-ate semen. Customers of cattle semen usually come from a small farm to five. Thus, Nueva Ecija. But VBAITs roam hours in search and the semen of other livestock themselves.

"Our AI service is really a big help for the farmers. They are able to multiply the quality breed animals," Agustin says. "We go to farmers who seek out our services no matter where they are."

The VBAITs in Central Luzon are in the process of registering their newly formed cooperative.

"The cooperative will make us truly privatized. We will source out our own needs and set our unified rules on how to go about with our services," Agustin explains.

Quaint chateau in Cavite offers corporate amenities

Text and photos by Ma. Reiner Salcedo-Prandoy
Correspondent

CHATEAU Hestia bottles its own wine.

CHATEAU Hestia area have out-of-the-doors to host a weekend place to relax and do business at the same time.

SILANG, CAVITE—In strict definition, a chateau refers to "an estate where wine is produced and often bottled, especially in the Bordeaux region of France" or "a large country house."

In the Philippines, Chateau Hestia comes a little closer to the French reference, nonetheless using its Greek name inspired by the Goddess of the Hearth, Daughter of Cronus and Rhea.

While grapes are not actually grown on the estate, the restaurant bottles its own wine with the use of imported cool grapes and fermented sugarcane unrefined. The The d'Orange contains 13-14 percent alcohol while the more potent Limoncello packs quite a punch with its 30 percent alcohol content.

Apart from the wine, the restaurant serves European favorites such as Osso Buco, different kinds of pizza and pasta, plus more unique flavors such as Bistek Bicolano (Vicente Bautista Park), Chalkos (Garlic) and the "Tinola Style" and Andoni's Iberico (Emperor's cuisine or Emperor's tomorrow).

Chateau Hestia is managed by Austrian food enthusiast Johannes Lehenbauer and his wife, lawyer Maria Flora Bilcher. Johannes came to the Philippines to attend a wedding where he met Maria.

Eventually, he settled in the country and found a way to bring his family's passions in travel, food, gardening and antiques to life through Chateau Hestia. The idea actually started among friends who wanted a weekend place to relax and do business.

The restaurant is not be confused with the more visible Chateau Hestia delicatessen on Sto. Rosa highway. The actual estate is located much nearer the Tagaytay road where you make a turn towards the inner road once you spot the "Dumirarao House of Prayer" sign. A map and menu are also available at www.chateauhestia.com.

Chateau Hestia is open only from Wednesdays to Sundays and also offers two bedrooms for those who wish to stay overnight. The main restaurant on the first floor can accommodate 100 persons. The second floor is reserved for corporate events and weddings that can hold up to 150 persons.

Nature's breeze provides cooling and standard corporate amenities such as a projector, sound system and free Wi-Fi are provided. The ambiance is natural, homey and relaxed.

Apart from the food, the restaurant is surrounded by various items such as heirloom pieces all the way from Austria as well as Julianne's (5-year old daughter) paintings along with other artworks.

"Chateau Hestia is like going to a home not a restaurant," Hestia says. The couple personally welcome guests to their abode—it's a one-of-a-kind European experience amid the Philippine countryside. (Feedback at www.pinoyeskwela.blogspot.com.)

The joy of not knowing

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

SOME PEOPLE believe that great leaders have all the answers. Not true. Successful leaders don't know everything. But they know people who do.

If you ask me a question related to one of my 10 passions and I don't know the answer, I know whom person in the organization does. If you ask about my profession, I may not know the answer, but with a phone call or two, I can talk to someone who can answer the question. And if you ask about the details of my life and schedule and I don't know the answer, I guarantee you there's someone who does—my assistant.

For leaders, it's okay not to know every thing.

The most important decision I ever made is keep me focused and to simplify my life was to hire a top-notch assistant. For 27 of the last 30 years of my life, I have been served by one wonderful assistant: Linda Eggers, and, before her, Barbara Brumagin. Their value to me has been enormous.

My assistant is the primary link of information for my life. Everything flows to and through her. I trust Linda's figures to know everything so that I don't have to. More importantly, she has learned to sift information and grasp the most important details. When we communicate, Linda gives me the main thing, which enables me to see what to do next, helps me to know why it is important, and empowers me to bring the appropriate resources/hear on the need at hand.

Because Linda is the center of information for my life, she knows the good, the bad, and the ugly. That works because I trust her completely. And when she tells me bad news, I am careful not to "shoot the messenger." Taking out your frustrations on the people who bring you bad news quickly stops the flow of communication.

For leaders, it's okay not to be the first to know.

Most people have a strong natural desire to be "in the know." There's why gossip magazines and tabloid newspapers sell so well. Leaders also have a strong desire to be "in the know" when it comes to their organizations. So leader likes to be blindsided. However, good leaders don't allow it to be caught up in every little detail of the organization. If they do, they lose their perspective and their ability to lead.

In any organization, problems should always be resolved at the lowest level possible. If every problem must be shared with leaders first, then solutions take forever. Besides, the people on the front lines are usually the ones who provide the best solutions, whether it's on the production line, the battle line, or the boardline.

Taking myself out of the middle of everything lessens my personal importance to many people in my organization, but it allows me to do that which is personally important to me. It also means that assistants are not always done "my way." But I have discovered that most things can be accomplished effectively in many ways.

What about you? Are you determined to know everything that goes on in your organization or department? Do you get a thrill from being the first to know? Do you have to be the source, "If you want something done right, do it yourself"? If so, you are complicating your life and risking burnout. This only limits you as a leader.

Begin relying on other people and cultivating trust in them. Only then can you be free to focus on the most important things.

(Reprinted with permission from the John Maxwell Company and Inspire Leadership Consultancy. Log (Name to attend Live Leadership with Francis Kong on April 1 in The Bay in Bayfront. Contact: Cell 0917-2616/706-4833 and look for Griselda Mist at www.inspireleaders.com.ph.)

BPI Family and Go Negosyo Celebrate Triumphs of Women Entrepreneurs, Filipino Pizza Founder Bags Excellence Award

Photos above (Above) Entrepreneurs being interviewed by ANC Morning Rotten; (at right) Senator Ver Francisco and Chief Marketing Officer BPI Cathy Rosa; Vice President and Head of Commercial Loans Division, BPI-Mr. Felipe Ramos, Chairman, Go2 Network Group; Gina Lee-Chua, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, BPI Family Savings Bank; Senator Ver Francisco; Senator Jinggoy Estrada; BPI Executive Vice President and Treasurer of Go2 Network Group

Sunday BIZ

Tradition breeds profits for quiet town in Kalinga

PRAISE DAY. Shop and General Merchandise clerk Tuggi bags and pouches.

Text and photos by EV Espiritu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LUBUAGAN, KALINGA—In Barangay Mabilong here, weaving is a sacred tradition passed on from mother to daughter.

This is why every house in this remote community has women skilled enough to weave traditional garments, from which they earn a tidy profit, says Josephine Fejer, 46.

"I was in Grade 5 when my mother taught me how to operate a backstrap loom (a mechanism strapped to a weaver's body)," she says.

Fejer's clan is known for its members' skills in weaving the finest Balingo tapis (skirt), badog (3-string) and blankets.

The Mabilong community on the other hand, is known in Kalinga for its backstrap-weaving techniques.

"In Mabilong homes, almost every member of the family helps in the weaving of garments. As soon as women finish weaving, the male family members come in and stitch the designs, which are drawn from their environment such as stars, mountains, lakes, birds and animals," Fejer says.

Many of these designs are passed down from early generations, and the families take care not to alter them because every detail and color has a specific meaning.

"We make sure we don't lose our traditional color combinations of red and black," Fejer says.

Mabilong fabric and garments have been exhibited in trade shows in the Cordillera and Metro Manila.

The fabric has been used for other products such as bags, belts, coats and sandals, shoes and mobile telephone and pillow cases.

Goods inspired by Mabilong designs are produced by big exporters of woven products like Nardo's, Easter Weaving School and the Kalinga Indigenous Weavers' Association, records from the Kalinga trade office show.

TRADITIONAL. Mabilong (left) cut in contrast to modern skirts.

TRADITIONAL. Mabilong woven blanket

DANCERS appreciate Mabilong's wrings

Today, the travel and tourism industry promises the rich experience of accessible travel the world over to almost everyone. In fulfilling the goal of providing state of the art technologies for the growth of the entire travel industry, Abacus Philippines, Amadeus Philippines, and Travelport-Galileo partnered with PLDT for reliable Internet connectivity via PLDT BizDSL.

Abacus Philippines, Amadeus Philippines, and Travelport-Galileo are the companies that make every traveler's smooth-sailing journey possible. "Our role is to enable success for numerous players in the travel industry—with technologies that will reduce cost and increase efficiency and enable global reach," said Amadeus Philippines General Manager Albert Villadolid. All three companies team up with PLDT Business Solutions for their Information Communications Technology (ICT) requirements.

With the use of technology provided by PLDT, Abacus Philippines, Amadeus Philippines, and Travelport-Galileo provide the tourism industry with the best travel solutions and services as showcased during the Philippine Travel Agencies Association's (PTAA) 38th Travel Fair Expo 2011. Now through these, travel needs such as itinerary planning, fare searching, reservations, ticketing, airliner schedule and inventory control, passenger check-in and departure control can easily be done over the Internet.

"The local tourism industry has just started to embrace solutions that use the latest available digital technology. With the rising trends, such as the increase in mobile smartphone usage and the changing landscape in travel patterns, it is imperative that travel suppliers become equipped with the latest technology to achieve higher productivity, greater customer retention, and increased sales performance," said Abacus Philippines President Dante Silvestre.

Travelport-Galileo Philippines Country Manager Gerardo "Bong" Velasquez underscores their strong relationship with PLDT. He said, "PLDT has been very consistent in providing connectivity. We are very satisfied with PLDT, and they have always been there to provide our needs. It's very important for any business to have reliable connectivity," said.

As the saying goes, banks can bring you places on maps, charts and computers; however, in this digital age, it cannot be ignored that the Internet has been doing an equally good...if not an even better job of taking people to different destinations around the world. PLDT, together with the three big names in the tourism industry, open doors for the travel industry to let the world discover itself, so to speak, by fully maximizing technology.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Our new man in Washington** is ready for the job /A11

Girl cries 'rape'—years later—and two most prominent families might end up in court

NOT MANY in Manila know, but two prominent families are feuding (except a court describes, not over wealth or business, but over family honor.

One family is accusing the other of slander/harassment, after the daughter of the other family reportedly told her friends and other people that she had been raped by the son of the other family in—hear this—the early '90s in New York (talk about ancient history).

Now the actor's family has hired a lawyer who (boy) wants the girl's family, actually the girl's boyfriend, a demand letter for an apology or else the actor—a young hunk of metrosexual known for extreme sports—goes to court.

It's a plot with a colorful list of characters. What is interesting now that the girl began telling friends of the "rape" in 1997 only after the hunk executive got engaged a few years ago. The hunk executive is now happily married to the daughter of a highly respected, (and feared) clans his ancestors.

It is said that things got messy after the girl told her boyfriend or fiancé about the alleged rape. The boyfriend, a wannabe artist, reportedly began sending threatening e-mail to the hunk executive—and would even accost the hunk executive in the elevator or lobby of the condominium where the executive lives with his young family.

"Insipid." He'd eat at him, the story went. It is also very ironic that the girl, her boyfriend, the hunk executive and his young wife happen to live in the same residential building.

Now, the hunk executive and his family have gathered all the e-mail and condominium run-ins as evidence of harassment, and their lawyer has sent a demand letter to the boyfriend and the girl's family.

What many may find sad but also interesting is that the two families are honest friends. They have been close for more than a generation now, with the children growing up together. In short, the two families, through the decades, have been like one big family, bound by their place in high society, involvement in business, government and diplomacy.

That's why one family claimed, the alleged "rape" in '97 couldn't have been rape because the girl would pop unannounced into the hunk executive's apartment there and sleep over. The alleged "rape," the girl claimed, happened after a party and drinking spree in the hunk executive's apartment. When the hunk executive's family is saying is that the two had a "fling."

Get this done, however—the girl did not and hasn't filed a rape case. (It happened in the early '90s, remember.)

The girl has her own career, has lived in the US and Europe, and has had her string of relationships. The hunk executive, too, has had his share of girlfriends.

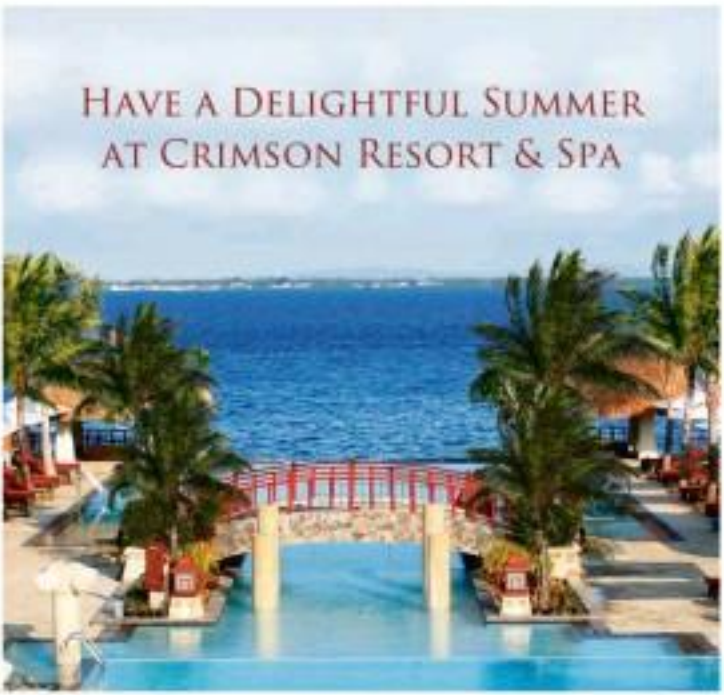
Nonetheless, the family of the hunk executive, particularly the mother—who is known in Manila for her fantastic cooking and classy dinners—is furious at what it calls "slanderous accusation" and seems determined to have the son's name cleared. It is said that not only his family, but also the hunk executive's wife, and in-laws, are solid behind the man, and are keen on seeing the case through.

Meanwhile, the very few people who know of this brewing scandal are hoping the two can be resolved, and that the two families don't have to go to court.

One more curious thing, people say the girl's current boyfriend looks a lot like the hunk executive.

A case of fatal attraction? But that was a many years.

The case's not final yet, only many



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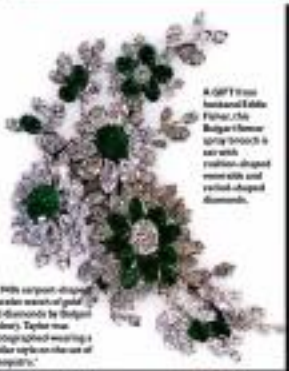

A GIFT from husband Eddie Fisher, this Bulgari flower spray brooch is set with cushion-shaped emeralds and round-shaped diamonds.

A 1960s serpent-shaped bracelet made of gold and diamonds by Bulgari (below). Taylor was photographed wearing a similar style on the set of "Cleopatra."

When she wasn't on the set shooting 'Cleopatra' in Rome in 1962, she was at the famed Italian jewelry store

WITH SURETI She wears their wedding rings, her engagement gift—a large emerald and diamond cluster brooch (shown up close at left).

ONE of Burton's most remarkable gifts was this Bulgari emerald and diamond necklace with a detachable pendant-brooch. He gave Taylor the pendant brooch as an engagement present, the necklace for the wedding.

A Bulgari emerald necklace with diamonds and cabochon sapphires, as the front is illustrated, topped by a cabochon ruby of about 50 carats, part of Taylor's collection.

TAYLOR wears her Bulgari emerald and diamond necklace-brooch as hair ornament, as well as an emerald and diamond brooch and drop earrings, both gifts from Richard Burton.

Bulgari jewels were Elizabeth Taylor's 'therapy'

"TOO ONLY word Elizabeth knows in relation to Bulgari," Richard Burton once said of his paramour and two-time wife Elizabeth Taylor, a statement that would underscore the glittery Hollywood boom (1) to-its jewelry collections.

The death of Taylor, 79, this week called to mind once more her remarkable and intermixed facets of her celebrated life: her many husbands and jewelry collections as extraordinary as movies nearly as much as her career as the frill-seen-in her career in cinema.

Taylor's love affairs—she was married eight times, twice to Burton—extended to priceless baubles, she noticed same in many pieces, including the 33.19-carat Krupp Diamond and the pear-shaped 69.42-carat Taylor-Burton diamond necklace, both gifts from Burton. She also received a 29-carat diamond ring from third husband Mike Todd.

Her collection is reportedly valued at $150 million.

In her last known interview, which came out in Harper's Bazaar, Taylor said, "The Krupp is an extraordinary stone. It has such life and brilliance when light shines through it. She does matter, but so does the size of the emotion behind it."

While filming "Cleopatra" in Rome in 1962 (when her scandalous affair with Burton began, while she was still married to Eddie Fisher), Taylor would visit the Bulgari shop in the afternoons. Bulgari jewels were also brought to her on the set.

"I introduced Liz to Bucci, she introduced me to Bulgari," Burton once quipped.

Fisher, Taylor's husband at the time, however, was already familiar with his wife's passion for jewels and their "therapeutic value" to her, such that purchasing Bulgari jewelry had become "emotional," according to the book "Bulgari."

In his last attempt to save their marriage, Fisher gifted Taylor with three "magnificent" Bulgari pieces on her 30th birthday; when they split a few months later, Fisher sent her the bill for the jewels.

One of Burton's most remarkable Bulgari gifts was an emerald and diamond necklace with a detachable pendant-brooch. he gave Taylor the pendant-brooch as an engagement present, the necklace for the wedding.

"I used to get excited, I would jump on top of him and practically make love to him in Bulgari," Taylor once said of Burton to the New York Times.

In the same Harper's Bazaar interview, she said, "I never planned to acquire a lot of jewels or a lot of backstabs. For me, life happened, just as it does for everyone else. I have been supremely lucky in my life to that I have known great love, and of course I am the temporary custodian of some incredible and beautiful things." Charlie T. Mowat

Pundaquit festival presents Drama't Emo

play on April 13. He will join with the Pundaquit Virtuosi and Asia tenor Ramon Acho will play indigenous music.

Radio's "The Seven Last Words of Christ on Good Friday" will be on April 22 and on Easter concert featuring the Blessed Is of Hope choir will be on April 24. Concerts will be at the Ramon L. Conjuico Hall of Casa San Miguel scholars.

The annual summer camp will be on May 1–28 and culminates on June 10 with a grand show cast of works by Casa San Miguel scholars and resident artists.

The series will close on May 28 with the Solaire Night with the Pundaquit Virtuosi directed by Gilda Cinco and mountain Pandora beginning choir producers Miguel Fabiada, Juliet Crespo, Yvonne Madarang, violist Jovee Aquino and cellist Rowena Casanova solo string concerto.

Tickets are at P1,000 each, including entrance to galleries, pre-show cocktails and post-concert dinner with the artists. Call 681-8004 or visit Casa San Miguel at facebook.

ANSWERS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

My good-for-nothing father steals from me

DEAR EMILY,

Lola 34, the eldest in the family, a single mom to a son turning two this year. My problem is my father. He steals money from me—and I hate it. I have confronted him many times and every time I do, I'll wish he were dead instead of my mom.

He is irresponsible. He has never worked for his children and spent his days gambling and hanging out with his friends. We, his children, were lucky to have a single parent who took care of us, otherwise we would have ended up in the streets.

I even remember him beating up my mom when was my breadwinner. I always defended my mom, but I ended up getting beat myself.

My mom passed away 11 years ago—I was 15. We were supposed to be left to his care, but he left us two months after she died. Soon, my siblings and I graduated through our own initiative and started to have jobs. He came back and asked to stay with me. I took him in because he is my kin. But despite the gesture, this is how he treats me.

—Emerald

How the table has turned! Was the child here now taken the role of parent in this father who has re-

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mercado

You don't owe him anything; about time you gave him 'tough love'

gressed into a juvenile delinquent. Are there here some parents, neighbor stories from being delusions in horribly patterns.

It's taken for granted that with each rotation of the planet, some changes would occur. But sometimes some people, like the father, stay the same and even go from bad to worse.

You have to take your father by the scruff of his neck and knock some into his head. First, make him realize that if he still has a shred of shame, he gather his strength to support himself and get a job. Second, if he refuses to find his own, he no support his elders at the least, then give him a fixed allowance.

This might just embarrass him on how low he has become, and change for the better....however late it is. What is the up-to anyway? Is he just waiting for him to shoot out his number for that ride to the twilight zone?

If these suggestions won't change his game, give him an ultimatum that will make him come up for air. Have to him a grim scenario of suddenly becoming homeless. The shortly time necessary to your deep sense of filial piety, but there's always a thing as desperate times, desperate measures.

You don't actually owe him anything, to be brutally honest. You didn't ask to be born and you don't owe him a living! He had every chance in his miserable life to make himself an honorable father, yet, he turned his back from all of you at crucial time. Yet, you took it upon your collective selves to make your mother proud. Isn't this the least of it all?

Having an incorrigible errant parent is second farming up your equilibrium and young life is a problem that should be deleted from your existence. You have your own life to live.

It's about time you gave your father "tough love!"

E-mail questions to emerald@inquirer.com.ph.

Shakey's

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The Shakey's brick oven-baked thin crust pizza experience: Fun, family bonding starts here.

The Shakey's experience starts with brick oven-baked pizza. And everyone knows Shakey's is the home of the world-famous and traditional thin crust pizza. Shakey's thin crust pizza comes with lots of fresh toppings, aged cheddar cheese and our special Shakey's pizza sauce. Together they combine to produce the perfect harmony of crunch and flavor that's uniquely Shakey's.

And the dining experience is what makes families go back to Shakey's again and again through the years. Whether it's after Sunday mass lunch, a small get-together, a family reunion, or an office luncheon, there is no better place to experience all these but at Shakey's, the home of the world's greatest pizza.

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THE EXHIBIT'S honoree women leaders

SHOWBIZ JUDY for marketing Mitch Sy, Gifts & Graces executive director Greg Perez, Sandy Romualdez, Sr. Cita Barrozo, Tessa Valdes, Annie S. Garcia and SM Megamall manager Christian Matney

Inquirer columnist Tessa Valdes, Inquirer and Gifts & Graces president Sandy Romualdez and SM Supermalls president Annie S. Garcia hold chic reusable bags.

Empowered women—their products tell their life stories

By Irene C. Perez

THERE'S A new breed of "alpha females" who are now rocking different industries from politics to publishing. This responsible pack defines "women empowerment"—maximizing a stellar career while having a life, with enough time for themselves and their family.

But there still a lot of women who are poor and helpless, those who were not so privileged to have a good education and stable job.

Zenaida de Guzman, 60, seems but busy by doing three urgent and important jobs. She makes candles on the side for extra income Gifts & Graces, a nonpowermoon organization, taught her how to create scented soy candles that burns better than traditional candles, with less soot.

De Guzman now heads seven women who makes soy candles that come in citronella, orange, lavender scents. From depending on random buyers, they now supply Gifts & Graces, which manages orders for them.

Handmade items exhibit

An umbrella organization of communities specializing in handmade products, Gifts & Graces has been providing livelihood to poor Filipinos since 2007. It also gives proper branding to their wares such as candles, bags, purse holders, throw pillows, oven mitts and other personal and home items.

In celebration of Women's Month this March, Gifts & Graces together with SM Supermalls present the traveling exhibit "Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship" as a tribute to women who have dared to break out of poverty through hard work, determination and entrepreneurship." It had previously been at SM Mall of Asia, SouthMall and Megamall, and is now on its last leg in SM North Edsa until April 1.

Board members Inquirer president Sandy Romualdez and SM Supermalls president Annie Garcia, and Inquirer Lifestyle columnist Tessa Valdes recently ran the ribbon during the opening in SM Megamall.

Featured in the exhibit are the women of Gifts & Graces, their organization and products: De Guzman of Kapithan Candles; Lucy Lee of Ceramic Minda Bonda and Aster Quimbo of Families and Children for Empowerment and Development, makers of bags from recycled newspaper; Jenny Llanderal of Mary Rogers, who makes basket bags from old phone directories; Marina Reyes of Kalibasi Inc., who sews lacquered and Ambit into overnight bags; differently abled Lita B. Evangelista of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan and her native purses, baskets and lingerie wooden trays.

Executive director Greg Perez said the exhibit is part of their campaign to inspire more women "the will they wanna through our products and we are responding to more contemporary patterns from outside to our."

Gifts & Graces products are usually sold in corporate gifts through bulk orders. The mall-based exhibit is a way to make the goods more visible to shoppers.

"We want a better way to sell the products, making them accessible to buyers. Many women still love to purchase and just wait for their husbands to give them money. Through Gifts & Graces, they now earn and provide for their family...which was unimaginable before," Sandy Romualdez said. "When we get heart and soul of the family, and we want to give them dignity."

Best-selling bags

From being just housewives, these women acquired skills in making bags, which they say is limiting the terms and maintaining quality also endeavors them on effective production processes.

Bestsellers are the funky but functional bags. The busy newspaper bags, made of several newspapers with 8 handles secured with stems, are perfect for shopping. They come in a laminated finish of clear varnish and can carry up to five kilos. Designs include several oriental pop-art hand-painted prints like Jardin O and Audrey Hepburn.

Another favorite is the boat-shape directory bag with round handles handles which actually looks like woven raffia but is actually made of strips of yellow pages from the phone directory. The roomy bags have lining and a pocket inside.

The tarp bag made of discarded tarpaulin is an excellent waterproof carry-all bag, while the ethnic print purse opens up to a dolomeroids overnight bag.

Then there's the reusable bag from Rose sacks with jute handle. The newest addition to the lineup is the oversized basket bag in earth colors made of bamboo base and plastic weave.

Student designers Trix Aurora, Patrice Ramos Ong and Joey Jimenez also have a big collection in the corners.

For corporate giveaways, the sewers print baskets made of woven yellow pages paper with checkered red and green lining are a hit during holidays. These are filled with local goodies like woven macramé straps, homemade adas and tablea chocolate.

Other home items are embroidered throw pillows, quilted ottoman, coffee sleeves, mini "monster" stuffed dolls.

RECYCLABLE denim coffee sleeve with Inquirer 25th anniversary logo. Also comes in other prints and colors.

BOAT bags made of woven strips of phone directory pages with heart accent

ETHNIC-PRINT purses that open up into roomy throw-aside, overnight bags. Below, striped bag by Inquirer and picnic basket with checkered lining.

Shop for love

Keeping the designs updated and maintaining a standard look can be a challenge, added Perez. The items have to be quality, durable and bold, but still with hand-crafted elements. He, with in-house designer Marge Obligacion, researches for trends in magazines, websites and retail stores, and ventures and approves the final products.

There are many lifestyle items with the same organic, homespun-ness at the malls, in bazaars, even at the tanggo—most of them sold at lower prices. How does Gifts & Graces compete with them?

Perez said buying Gifts & Graces products is a way to advocate lifestyle change through fair-trade purchasing. The products are ethically made and empower women financially by improving their self-esteem, and enables them to become leaders in their own communities. Remember, added Perez, that it's not just about women making beautiful products. The crystal bag hangers, for instance, were made by autistic children.

Or, as self-confessed shopaholic Valdes said: "If you're shopping, buy Gifts & Graces, not ripped for a cause!" Gifts & Graces donated P50,000 to Gifts & Graces on behalf of the mommy-bloggers.

After the exhibit, Gifts & Graces items will still be available at its Makati office.

For Gifts & Graces at G/F Unit 123 Elite Loop Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati. Call 7845115 or 09277470372; e-mail info@giftsandgraces.com; visit www.giftsandgraces.com.

She's standing tall for persons with disabilities

By Jay Rojas
Correspondent

IT STARTED at 13 with the gradual weakening of her legs and symptoms like tingling nerves, loss of appetite, fever, and a mysterious lump under the arup of her breastbone on her back.

At 14, Lita B. Evangelista was diagnosed with Dott's Disease, or tuberculosis of the bones, a serious condition that affects the spinal column. Admitted into a private hospital in Bulacan where she underwent back surgery, Evangelista, then a high school sophomore, remembers that upon waking up from the operation, all sensation in her legs was gone.

Forced to stop school for a year of physical therapy and rehabilitation at the Philippine Orthopedic Center in Quezon City, the teenager sensed her frustration in anger and isolation. "Galit ako at mundo. Ahaan ako ng tanong galit at tanong magbuhay ng bintana sa kuwarto ko." While her peers literally moved on to their universities, she, rather, she recalls, would come home for lunch from his office every day to entertain her legs. When that helped her mood without the aid of leg braces, she felt she was ready to study again, only this time in a school for crippled kids at the Orthopedic Center's grounds.

Intact and motivated, she aced a placement exam that made her skip her senior year in high school, then finished an economics degree and graduated cum laude at Union College.

Having to work in one of the big offices in Makati, she applied instead at Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH) as a way to give back to those who had supported her. Founded 20 years ago by Bel Gan nun Sr. Ma. Salve Jose Bautista, the organization is devoted to providing livelihood skills and programs to the physically disabled also managed by the disabled leaders. Evangelista joined in which she was still studying at the Orthopedic Center and in Union College.

Assigned at first to making tiny Christmas wirestrings, Evangelista, a natural born leader with a pleasant sense of humor, go-getter attitude, and a quiet confidence that outstands respect, progressed in the workplace quickly; a week later, she was asked to assist in the personnel department, and, in 1995, became supervisor of the IT department. Now TWH's director of workshop operations, she oversees some 100 workers, many of them in wheelchairs like Sister B, to the motto: "Empowering persons with disabilities through the production of the organization's 6.2-hectare property in Tanza, Cavite. Custom-built wheelchairs, school tables, tri-bikes and educational toys are among the most popular and in-demand items produced by TWH. Now, the organization is also known for supplying Bonna's Supermarkets' eco-friendly reusable tote bags, and the cute "monster" cell phone sling pouches that are all the rage among local cyber-life stars.

Yet Evangelista, 49, the biggest misconception about persons with disabilities is "the same as mine before," the athlete unabashedly. "I need to think that even a disabled person's mind was disabled, too. But once you get to know a disabled person, once you get to spend time with them, you realize their disability has not affected their intellectually. Master along because of lessons," she says emphatically. "They are people, too, and they have much to contribute if you give them a chance."

She's a perfect case in point. Despite her being confined to a wheelchair, Evangelista has accomplished as much, if not more, than her able-bodied counterparts. Widowed young (her husband, who was also in a wheelchair, died of complications from diabetes), she's also raising their two sons (one enrolled in the University of the Philippines, the other in his senior year in high school) on her own in a house she shares with sisters, also a widow.

She's also active in travel. Through her work with TWH, she was sent to Japan to study a course on Workshop Operations and Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities under the Japan International Cooperation Agency. In 2010, she spent three months in Australia pursuing a scholarship for Professional Development, an opportunity that allowed her to visit the Hosei WELfare Expo, the organization that inspired TWH.

Clearly, Evangelista has not used her condition as an excuse to stop dreaming. Ultimately, she'd like to travel more. From TWH, to work abroad, she reveals, and she what the organization has done for her and countless others. Her ultimate ambition? "Maging inspirasyon ako ng Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, na mahalaga ako sa kanila," she answers. "Gusto ko, kapag wala na ako sa Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, doon's no doubt the can do it.

Supremely, what she misses most about the use of her legs is "dancing," she deadpans. And recalling a recent date, Pinoy version," she decides after some thought. "Malamig ako [awkward noun, pero jumpol na ang kahuli'to. Ha ha."

Perhaps. But wheelchair or no wheelchair, this is one woman who refuses to walk the walk. At one point, Evangelista talks about the time she confronted her eldest son about why he isn't more involved but to his school programs. Are you ashamed of me? she demanded to know. No, but he wasn't sure how people would react to her handicap. "No," he said, "hope he will overcome your overcome me kaba na disabled ka? I'm proud of you!" His mother cannot help but beam after sharing that story.

"Life is really what you make of it," says Evangelista or her of the lessons her some bleak experiences has taught her. "I feel sorry for people who are content to just sitting there and not doing anything to improve their lives. Walang mas hirap sa buhay na hindi ka lang nalago ello. Eventually, you'll realize that you're the one who's going to suffer if you continue feeling down. And people aren't going to be there to support you forever. Your life is your life and whatever you want it to be better or worse is all up to you."

Tahanang Walang Hagdanan is a beneficiary of Gifts & Graces Fair Trade Foundation Inc., for their products, as well as the promotion of Kaibigan Inc., Kapithan Foundation, Camillus Alay Kapwa Workers, and Families and Children for Empowerment and Development in "Women Empowerment through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship," a month-long exhibit, selling fair and low-down stitches of craft making. It is ongoing until April 1 at SM North Edsa.

TWH "monster" cops from Tahanang Walang Hagdanan

TB of the bones didn't stop Tahanang Walang Hagdanan's Lita Evangelista from doing what able-bodied people can do—all from her wheelchair

Touched by a woman's work, JK Rowling donates land for abused Filipinas

JK ROWLING donated the land on which a safe house for young, abused Filipinas now stands.

The best-selling author was so impressed with this woman's work that as soon as she handed her the Shell Award for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University in 2007, Rowling pledged to give her the money right then and there. "Continue with the wonderful work," Rowling told her.

Only last month, Katie Reed of the Reed Model Agency in New York called her up to say that she was so grateful to partner with her in an anti-trafficking project, saying, "I really wish we could do more."

Meet Cecile Flores Oebanda, founding president and executive director of the Visayan Forum Foundation, a Philippine-based nongovernment organization known for pioneering work for the empowerment of vulnerable migrants, especially victims of human trafficking, domestic servitude and other forms of exploitation.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Rubio-Gubaldo

I met her one late afternoon after her organization, with support from the US Agency for International Development, the Philippine government, and other government and private organizations had completed a series of activities to create more awareness about trafficking.

Cecile a shy and unassuming, petite, but powerful in her softness and strength. Her looks belie the steel and courage that lie within.

She tells me that the work she is doing is simply a continuation of what she used to fight for in the 1970s.

Born into poverty, she was peddling fish on the streets and markets of Sta-cruz when she was seven.

"Fish juice was running through my hair under the morning sun," she recounts. "When the sun leaves at seven except that life is unfair and that everything stinks!"

In the afternoon, she would go to school because her mother believed in the value of education. After a morning of selling fish, she would trudge to school in mismatched rubber slippers, the smell of garbage and fish still on her. She would sit in class and endure her classmates' bullying and teasing.

"I would just tell them I was wearing the latest scent."

Cecile's persistence and humor carried her through. As a young musician, she joined the National People's Army, lived in the hills, and became the famous Commander Liwayway, one of the first female commanders, the youngest, at that.

Giving up a son

It was at this time, she tells me, that she had to give up her infant son and send him off to relatives because it was not safe for him to live with her and her husband in the hills. It would be another 12 years before she saw him again.

"Giving him up was one of the most difficult, cult things I have ever had to do in my life," she recalls.

She was eight months pregnant when she was captured by the military after an eight-hour gun battle where her aide, Inette, who had protected her throughout the battle, had died bleeding from her and made sure she was safe. She says him killed right before her.

It was then that she decided to surrender. She was incarcerated for years before she and her husband were finally set free, shortly after Cory Aquino became president.

After she and her husband decided in just ways because they no longer wanted the same things, she went back to what she calls, her "old ways," but instead of mobilizing protests, she founded the Visayan Forum.

Instruments of change

The Visayan Forum was the first organization that was a social movement against child labor. Cecile says that everything has come full circle in the work she does for the organization.

"We do not choose the life we are born into. What is important is that we make ourselves instruments of change that will make this world a better place. We just have to live through each trial and all the pain that comes with it, and survive to see how it all ties up in the end," she explains in a soft and steely voice.

And truly, how far she has come.

Having lived through so difficulties has given her the tenacity, courage and perseverance to fight for young women. Cecile has influenced legislators in the country and the wider world to bring about better protection for children.

Cecile and the Visayan Forum now run eight halfway houses all over the country, four airport centers for domestic workers, and one safehouse for the young girls worst affected, who are no longer infants home because their parents would sell them again.

Since 2006, Cecile and the Visayan Forum have helped 60,000 victims of trafficking and taken several cases to court. They have trained thousands of partners in counter-trafficking, including judges, prosecutors, police, travel agencies and government authorities.

Cecile is a candidate for the 2011 World's Children's Prize, the world's largest rights education project, whose patrons include Nelson Mandela, Queen Silvia of Sweden and President José Ramos-Horta.

She is set to receive an award later this year at one of the three ceremonies.

Undeterred by all the attention, Cecile tells me that she finds so much meaning in the work because everything she has had to live through has come to fruition.

"You just have to really depend on God. Kaya ako, where I am led, I will go. There's still so much work to be done."

Call the Visayan Forum at 709-0711 or visit www.visayanforum.org.

E-mail the author at cathy.bubo@gmail.com

'We do not choose the life we are born into. What is important is that we make ourselves instruments of change'
— Cecile Oebanda

EARIST students art exhibit

"BIG, BARONG" ART exhibit featuring works by graduating students from Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Institute of Science & Technology College of Architecture & Fine Arts is on view until March 30 in Kanlungan ng Sining, Bulwagang Pilipinas, Manila (open daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.). The exhibit is a project of the Art Association of the Philippines and the National Parks Development Committee under executive director Juliet K. Villegas. Participants are Sonia Rodriguez, Lito Zamarra, Wilfredo Andes, Jacqueline Bernardo, Rolando Chan, Rindy Cayaco, Rap-ann Dorata, Michael Jamelo, John Paul Lucenario, Mark Anthony Paez, Jo-Lark Tacnet, Jeanie Tabing, Clarabelle Tandayu, Jomar Tarroc, Mark Joseph Villanueva and Joseph Cardoz.

Pace Park Presents

Pace Park Presents' theme for April is "Young Artists, In Focus." The regular weekly concerts is presented by the Department of Tourism, National Parks Development Committee, and National Broadcasting Network.

April 1 — "Homenaje a Fe, Manuel y Hugo," featuring Pat Lastra, alto; Lourdes Hess, cello; Greg Zuñiga, piano; Edgardo de Dios, guitar.

April 8 — Pipp Competition Winners Part 1, Piano Teachers' Guild of the Phils. Competition Winners 2011

April 15 — PTGP Competition Winners Part 2.

April 29 — Bayanihan Children's Festival.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Rediscovering the healing power of 'hilot' in a luxury island spa /F4

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Tips to remember when buying beddings, linen

The right type of filling in a pillow can lessen or even prevent snoring

By Carmencita Sison
Lead Buzz

A BIT in my life usually entails some nerve-wracking activities: scurrying from one store to the next to pull out items for a shoot, rushing to the pictorial, juggling events and interviews, beating deadlines.

At the end of the day, I'm usually dead tired. So the idea of cozying up in bed after a hard day's work and wrapping myself in the softest of sheets is heaven in my book.

But at 2:30—fairly far from the morning ago—I wonder about the experience of sharing a bed with one's better half. Loud snoring.

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iPhone 4
Your way

Tips to remember when buying beddings, linen

From page D1

Sliding aboard, differing room temperature preferences, lack of space — these are just some of the challenges newlyweds face as they begin sharing the bed.

Antonio Jaquel Home hopes to help couples adjust to each other by offering premium bedding and linens, plus these useful tips:

- Ensure the bed size is right for you.
- Invest in quality sheets to enhance sleep quality. Premium bed linens set can help you sleep better. It's good to invest, since we sleep for 1/3 of our lives.
- Pamper yourself to make a difference. Figure out the right type for you. The right type of filling in a pillow can lessen one's current snoring.
- Colors can influence your slumber.
- A pleasant sleeping environment can do wonders and allow for a better night's sleep. When your sleeping area is calm, peaceful, serene, it can enhance quality time with your spouse, whether you are awake or asleep.

Premium offerings

Jaquel Home offers a variety of premium bed linen collections and bedding goods to add to better sleep quality.

"We feel that with our bed linens, Jaquel really has unique offerings. So we're focusing on our linens right now," says store operations manager Erika Tiacoal.

As bed linens vary in function — fitted sheet, pillowcases, duvet cover, flat sheet, etc. — they vary in thread count as well (400, 600, 800, 1,000 and 1,300).

"I think we're already heading to the upper end of linens. Before, in terms of thread count, I think our highest was 600, then we went to 800 and now it's up to 1,300," says Tiacoal.

"And our customers have responded very well to that. And those sheets even feel better next time as you use them and wash them," she added.

In elegant hues of black, white, peach and cream, the bed linens are loosely mixed and matched. And as they are sold per piece, customers have the option to handpick which pieces best suit their preference and lifestyle.

"You can maybe buy a complete set, then sometimes pillow cases and stuff be able to incorporate everything in one look," said Tiacoal.

As I scanned the home section, I zeroed in on the bedding linens worth as easy as I thought. Refresh or standard pillowcase? Striped or a plain sheet? But the couch cried I got my hands on 100% percent the thoughts in my head: Made in Egyptian cotton, with a 1,200 thread count. It was unusually soft and smooth, making me wish I were in bed. You can't go wrong with that.

Juliana Anne Gaerlan | Special Contributor

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GROOM'S parents Vic and Elsa Cortes

BRIDE'S parents, Narciso and Evelyn Martial, and their sister daughter, Unbeknosall Llewelyn

GROOM plays for his bride and their guests.

INVITATION Assigned by bride

WRITER'S CLUE: Ghost is Gov'DOCrates - Gulay groom's grandmother, reads Esther Vallado - Elcray, bride's grandaunt

A 'homespun' wedding

NEWLYWEDS Nico Martial and Fred Cortez

ATTENDANCE: Mayra Gulay, Ma. Luisa Sara, Ma. Luisa Vida, Rosita Martial Magat

NEWLYWEDS and entourage: Erica Cortez, Maybelle Martial, Llewelyn Martial, Tennessee Comendador (holding Bella Martina Estrella), Marian Joyce Sara, Kathleen Martial, Renee Gil Bea Castillo Carlo, Luis and Nico Cortez, Lorenzo Martial (back row) Ben Pons, Paolo Cortez and (foreground) Prince Tobias and Alexandra Encarnacion

By Angelina Gulay
Contributor

THE BRIDE designed the invitation, the background played the guitar during the reception. Musician IV speculata Freddie "Fred" Cortez and graphic designer/photographer Joanne "Nico" Martial teamed to put a personal touch to their wedding, held recently at Sonya's Garden in Tagaytay City.

Their families and close friends also assisted with the preparations and arrangements, giving the session a "homespun" feel that blended positively with the charming country setting.

The black and silver themed wedding was coordinated by the bride's aunt Hon. Luisa S. Sara and friend Melanie Munoz-Sison.

The bride's parents, Narciso Evalog Martial and Evelyn Sera Martial, oversaw the setup. Along with her sister Luisa and a helper, Evelyn did the flower arrangements. A needlecraft hobbyist, she also sewed the flower girls' dresses and the table centerpieces.

The groom's parents, Bo Carlos Jr. and Elsa Golay Cortez, were in charge of the music. They sang during the ceremony and reception, while their three other aunts Perlie, Lucy and Nieves played the guitar.

A string quartet led by Rudel Lorenzo of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (Elder's classmate at the UP College of Music), played music which enhanced the solemnity of the Christian ceremony. Pastor Jeff Christopher of Victory Christian Fellowship officiated.

Star Struc was Fred's band mate, Pink Panes Urbis, together with Nico's friend Tina Abalos, had rendezvoused the couple's, while Nico's colleagues at Cinematic Concepts took care of photography and video.

Nico's longtime friend from St. Paul and St. Scholastica, Tennessee M. Comendador, was maid of honor. Her dad's boyhood buddy, Lawyer Robert L. Cabio, was one of the sponsors.

Other sponsors included San Francisco Armel Flores G. Domingo (represented by Jojo V. Sera), who gave Nico her bridal gown; and Maria Golay, Fred's aunt and generous godmother, who also sang during the ceremony.

The suite of bridal wedding rites by Savior Solomon was a gift from Nico's sister and bridesmaid, Lorenzo, who also co-emceed part of the program with Fred's brother and candle sponsor Carlo. The couple's other siblings, Lorenzo Marcial and Erica Cortez, both maid sponsors, were also co-emcees.

During the reception rare elderly women momentarily stole the scene when they cut at the center of the dining hall to greet each other. Both sisters, they had been separated by time, but were being reunited by the bus route by their respective kin.

Father Vallado Elcray happens to be the bride's grandaunt, and Gloria Gambiteorena Golay, the groom's grandmother. The two ladies' relationships may as well have been their joint blessing to their apos' unions.

Milestones

We welcome announcement of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, 5/F Bar 2333 Makati Central Post Office, 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

MAQUELING-CHUA

Arnaiz Anne Chua, daughter of Fernando and Edna Chua, and Irwin Maquiling, son of Edgardo and Shalina Maquiling, on Jan. 9 at Shangri-La Makati.

SANTOS-FLORECE

Hendelina Rina Florece, daughter of Marcelito Florece and the late Wilhelmina Micolas Florece, will wed Dexter Santos, son of the late Edgardo Santos and Rina de Dios, on March 26 at Iglesia ni Kristo, Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas. A grand reception will follow at The Oak Garden, Coastal Road Extension, Brgy. Longos, Bacoor, Cavite City. The events will be coordinated by events specialist Alec Soriano of Forever Plus.

The bride will wear a princess-cut white bustier gown made of duchesse satin with heavy beadwork on the upper bodice and embroidered appliqué on the lower torso.

ALEC CHRISTENING

Miss Selina Anne will be christened today at Nuestra Señora de Gracia Church, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati. She is shown cradled by her mother Melissa, with father Bernard and siblings Chesca (left), Mia Samantha and Ava Meredith.

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BPI Family

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Tips to remember when buying beddings, linen /D2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sorry kids, but mommy's still far from home so go to bed already.

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Coming on-theme at a Singapore fashion show

At the Adidas fashion gig, I wore an Adidas jacket with a Jeremy Scott black watch with a gold frame reminiscent of the Victorian age

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

WHEREVER I am at an international affair, I make sure that I represent our country well. At the recent Singapore fashion spectacle of Adidas, I wanted to come on-theme, which was quite a challenge given that there are five labels under the Adidas Sport Style Division, including Adidas by Stella McCartney.

Still, the event was the hippest sports apparel fashion show I have ever attended. My **running buddy Louis Casteyad,** marveled at my jacket, which was from Adidas by Jeremy Scott, and one of the many fresh Seoul finds for Erado Haus just the week before, thanks to the eagle eyes of my **shopping buddy Tin Yap.**

Tin also bought the signature Jeremy Scott "wings" rubber shoes with a matching skeleton jacket. We both had a K-Pop shopping spree in the Adidas Originals shop in Seoul.

Aside from Adidas, Jeremy Scott has also launched his special collection of Swatch watches. I died it all together by matching the Adidas jacket with

CONTINUED E2

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MAGAPSMAN actress Carmen Soo, Philippine Daily Inquirer's Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Thailand's Miss Universe 2005 winner Natalie Glebova and Singapore cardiologist Bruce Ngan

SEA PRINCESS with Amazing Race winners Rich Hatcher and Bo Kimble

Coming on-theme at a Singapore fashion show

Pineapple fit

a jewelry Store black watch with a gold frame reminiscent of the Victorian age.

The Jewelry Store Watch Pack consists of one model sporting straps, reminiscent of but quickly pieces by Adidas, another shaped into a lightning bolt, and, finally, the gold frame that is my favorite. Swatch head Virgile Rantese is just thrilled that the new collaboration is creating unique and, best of all, very affordable.

And so I arrived in the Singapore fashion show clad in an on-theme jacket and Swatch. Added for maximum impact were a neon pink tutu and Group-and-styled Adidas by Jeremy Scott shoes. The venue was filled with a chic mix of media, celebrities and fashionistas from all over Southeast Asia.

The show opened with F.I.L. whom Singaporean actor Christopher Lee described as one of the capsule collections of my looks. The insightful video of Japanese designer Eiji Ezaki mannequin showed his brilliant fashion ideas.

After the sleek, masculine Porsche Design Sport line and the preppy GUESS fashion presentation, I was most excited about the Adidas by Stella McCartney piece. Malaysian actress Carmen Soo, who has made a Philippine-Malaysian soap opera with Jericho Rosales, mesmerized guests in a sultry tuxedo dress from Stella McCartney.

Next in line was NIKE, the younger, alternative label. The highlight of this segment was seeing our very own basketball hero Chris Tiu among the models. He strutted down the black, slick grass runway, holding his own alongside professional models, celebrities and stylish personalities from around the region.

Megawatt's "next gen," Kevin Tan and his sister Kendrea, also showed with the rest of the group. The new "all Adidas" global brand campaign really impressed us with the last collection of the night, Adidas Originals.

I become instant friends with Adidas Philippines country manager Mabel Purno. He gladly allowed us bring one of my suitcases home.

I will be seeing the Adidas gang again on Oct. 13 for the Adidas "Ring of the Road" at the Bonifacio Global City. The race will make its regional debut with other Asian nations joining. Now on its 10th year, the race will feature special, colored Adidas singlets. It will also have a unique 16.8K route designed to any level of running. For more and updates on the Adidas RUN, visit the Adidas Philippines Facebook fan page or visit www.adidasrun.multiply.com.

Being in Singapore is always extra special because my oldest son, Bryan Prieto, works in Electric Generals there. With the light itinerary given by Adidas, we were able to enjoy the precious dinner with him in Marina Bay Sands and the new Marina Bay Sands Hotel.

The head chef of the Marie Stakali restaurant is Carla Hiramatsu, a Pinay and a good friend of Leah. Stunning chef Carla has worked with chef Mario for years in Manila and wanted to head the team that opened its first Asian branch. Thanks to her, we were stuffed with the best tasting Italian menu I have ever had.

Culinary contest winners

At the very room 11th Gourmet'est Culinary Competitions in Perth, Australia, the Les Toques Blanches Philippines Culinary Team won the bronze. Gold was awarded to Singapore and silver to Hong Kong.

Chefs J Gamboa and Bernard de Anacorta, who managed the winning team, told us the great news.

The team was captained by Reid Mancao, with chefs Raoul Tiqui and Gerry de Guia of Lolo Dad's Grill and Brasserie 6758, together with chefs Jacinto Magallanes and Cyrill Estrada of Enderun College. All created a sumptuous Pinoy dish with Australian lamb.

The 17th Philippine Culinary Team was sponsored by EBV International, Ajinomoto Philippines, Pitchberry International Corporation, Alternative Food Corp., Wine Warehouse, Chef Revival, Meat & Livestock Australia, Unilever Food Solutions, Enderun Colleges, Jalna, RainBest, Inti Mejial Lifestyle Farms, Singapore Airlines, Wineshop, Metro Resources and Premier Korean Rice Group, Shirlite Law and Peter Amarun of Amoretti Pacific Exports and the Hotel Sogacity Pearls were also supportive.

Chef Reid told me the Singapore Airlines crew reportedly helped by giving the team the airline's luggage allowance needed for cooking utensils, etc. Scheduling was a breeze as the airline flies 17 times weekly between Singapore and Perth, offering convenient same-day connections for passengers from Manila, Cebu or Davao.

Masseta

Pinoys are really wonderful chefs and there are so many restaurants in the city we can be proud of. We recently took some Singaporean visitors to a delicious dinner at Masseta Wine Bar and Restaurant (tel. 5886509).

Executive chef Ogie Sumbeming, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York, not only whips up excellent dishes, she personally works the floor to ensure her guests are satisfied. She dropped by our table and told me that Masseta was recently voted as one of the top restaurants in the Philippines by the renowned Miele Guide 2010/2011.

Follow Dean on Twitter @jaclaudio or e-mail her at snapscience@inquirer.com.ph.

CELEBRITY guests Vince Hizon, Christine Jacob and Amanda Griffin

YOUNG Megawatt "team gen" heads Kevin Tan and sister Kendrea

ADIDAS Philippines, Inc.'s Head of Wholesale Sabrina Bautista, ADIDAS SEA managing director Ralph Rosario and Adidas Philippines, Inc.'s Mabel Purno

ADIDAS TEAM managing director Ralph Rosario, Sea Princess in Adidas by Jeremy Scott and Adidas Philippines' Mabel Purno

CHEERS! Hunter's Brandon Cotsch, Teamwater's Paolo Cagadoan and Lorrel Cleope, Ayala's Ramaine Guerrero, Megaworld's Kevin Tan, Adidas' Mabel Purno, Chris Tiu and Adidas' Adrian Sumilad, Jockey's Pierre Epere' Rosalia Enriquez, Ayala's Mark Sablan, Green Bath's Louie Cariaga and PGF's Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ADIDAS brand communications manager Jillian Pangandian, Cosmopolitan's associate fashion editor Happy Lopez, Preview's deputy managing editor Lyca Pano, Metro's managing editor Korina Rodriguez and Philippine Star's Lifestyle and Fashion writer Joyce Ocampo

CHEERS! basketball star Chris Tiu also to camp for Adidas NBA

SINGAPORE'S Marine Parade Club owners sportswear icons Bobby and Rita in Adidas Originals

ADIDAS brand communications manager Jillian Pangandian, Chris Tiu, PGF's Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Lianne Tiu and Adidas country manager Mabel Purno

SINGAPORE visitors Jhonny Tuason, Sea Princess and Cowboy Tuason

SINGAPORE Sojourners Chesbay Garcia and Bryan Prieto

COSMOPOLITAN'S Happy Lopez, Chef Karla Hiramatsu of Masseta Pizzeria and Preview's Lyca Pano

FULL-ON Adidas Originals by Jeremy Scott on Tim Tupin Ramos

HAIRCUT. Lisa Pangilinan and son Benjamin with Women's Health editor-in-chief Lori Picpon

LOLO Dad's Brasserie 6758 sous chef Gerry de Guia and executive chef Ariel Manuel, Enderun College chef instructor Cyrille Estrella, Grinder Restaurant executive chef J. Gamboa, Republique and Cantoon executive chef Fernando Aracama, Enderun College chef instructor Jaemin Magallanes and Lolo Dad's Café sous chef Raul Tiqui

17TH PHILIPPINES Culinary Team 2011: Cyrille Estrella, Jaemin Magallanes, Gerry de Guia, Raul Tiqui and Ariel Manuel

CHEFS Cyrille Estrella and Jaemin Magallanes' dessert service

JEWELRY Store Swatch watches

The New Zealand experience in Cebu

"EXPERIENCE NEW Zealand" was a food festival recently celebrated in Cebu at the Radisson Blu Hotel. New Zealand ambassador Marlene Matheson and wife Sue Cotton led a group of VIPs in its various events. The first one, appropriately enough, had a lively interaction with the taste buds.

It was a luncheon that consisted of a gastronomic experience of the first order. Welcoming all were the Radisson's Anna Fernandez and Joan Danao who led everyone to the Nilta ballroom. There awaited general manager Grant Godkin who is also a New Zealander.

"It's a thrill to partner with the Radisson and to two Brits," said ambassador Matheson, referring to Grant and the hotel's executive chef, Ole Podlovich, also from New Zealand.

They noted that New Zealand has a population a little bigger than Cebu is: 4.3 million, and that 60,000 of them are Filipinos. Food and beverage is New Zealand's largest manufacturing sector by total output. It is exported to 186 countries, including the Philippines. New Zealand's 14th largest and 10th fastest growing export market. In 2010 it grew by 28 percent.

With Ambassador Matheson was Andy Wilson, deputy head of mission; Amy Calayco, acting trade commissioner of New Zealand for the Philippines; and Alan Kocsiski, regional director for Southeast Asia of NZ Trade and Enterprise, as well as Lauren Bardon, the regional marketing and communications manager.

NZ Trade and Enterprise is New Zealand's national economic development agency. It works to stimulate economic growth by helping boost exports, strengthen regional economies, and deliver assistance to industries and individual business concerns.

The luncheon for Cebu media was off to a great start with the Ilaya Hate E Wha dancers performing the traditional Maori rituals of the Aupo haka. The dancers are all New Zealanders, of course, but they are based in Japan so English language school teachers.

Even livelier than the Maori dancers was celebrity chef Jo-ann Gosh who had come to prepare the NZ food festival fare at the Radisson's Pesta session. With a lot of good humor, he explained that New Zealand is a relatively new country and has not yet developed a traditional cuisine.

What it does have, he cited, is excellent produce as in "We have the best lamb!" Add to that long list are salmon, seafood like oysters and mussels, beef, lamb, fruits (yes, kiwi), chocolates and very fine wines. His eyes twinkled as he said, "The best Sauvignon Blanc in the world comes from New Zealand."

Lunch was served and the first course elicited oohs and aahs. Chef Jason roared, "Do you think the crab is alive? The customers on that porcelain bowl seemed to quiver. The dish actually had crab and lobster infusion smothered in a low sauce of caviar and truffle. Yum, shrimps on top quivered with the best.

More sighs of appreciation came with the rest of the course, especially the rack of lamb—the most tender, juiciest ever, flavored with some mysterious herbs he/she/we/only-to-God knows.

In the evening of that same day Ambassador and Mrs. Matheson hosted a reception for 200 at the Radisson's Isaza Maria ballroom. Various buffets served varied specialties, and once more it was the lamb—that was most popular. The Maori dancers also performed, a longer, more-active-than-lunch show.

Guests were led by the Ambassador of Belgium and Mme. Christian Shoockmans, dear friends of the Mathesons, who happened to be in Cebu at the time. Among those present were Harold Pfeil, Philippine chief of the New Zealand Business Council; Joey Villa, executive VP of SM Hotels and Conventions; and Senior Tourism Undersecretary Phineas Alfanzo.

Also present were Heights Ly who handles the call center in Cebu for the New Zealand and

THE WRITER

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Cocoy Laurel featured in musicial play about Peñafrancia

COCOY LAUREL, who played Juan Mamingwal in Ramon Obusan's production of 'Our Lady of Leyenang,' will play Simon Vela in Ferdinand Dimacuha's "Simon's Play" on April 29, 7 p.m., at the Newport Performing Arts Theater in Resorts World, Pasay City. The play, also directed by Dimacuha, is about the history of the Peñafrancia devotion.

In a presscon at Tao Yuan Restaurant on Malvar Street, Malate, Cocoy said he agreed to the role after listening to the music. "After all," he said, "it was give back time."

Cocoy said that four years ago, he collapsed from extreme stomach pain. Doctors said he had perforated ulcer due to stress. At that time, he was doing both "Man from La Mancha" and the "Leyenang" play the least was the acting. Sorry Sr., he was moved to Cbs 852 where he was incubated. He recalled that his mom (Celia Diaz Laurel) was with him for weeks and weeks.

"It was a miracle," he said. "And now that my mom is going to be operated on the future again in May, I am hanging on to Heaven and asking God to make her well. Mother Mary, I know, will help."

Believing in Mama Mary

Although she doesn't know much about the devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia, actress-singer Ces Silfonzo, who plays Elisa, believes in the effusacious intercession of Mother Mary. "I am a firm believer," she said.

Alternating as Elisa, Aveline Cenizeric is happy to be working with Cocoy Laurel again. They were next door neighbors in London when they were doing "Miss Saigon." Elisa is the play to the love interest of Jesus Vela.

The search

In 1434, Simon Vela, a Peninsulan, was reportedly told in a dream by the Blessed Virgin Mary to look for her image inside a mountain cave in Spain. The Virgin Mary told him that her image would be venerated all over the world. For five years, Simon looked but couldn't find her, until he heard two coal vendors discussing where the best coal could be found. One vendor said "Sa Peñafrancia." Simon followed the vendor until he stopped at the foot of the mountain called Peña de Francia.

Before he began to dig in the cave, Simon remembered the Virgin telling him to bring five persons to help him. All five men had ailments. When they finally found the image, all of them were healed.

'Ina,' patroness of Bicolandia

From 1710, the people of the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres in Naga have been devoted to Our Lady of Peñafrancia whom they affectionately call "Ina." The Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres and Our Lady of Peñafrancia Association are now helping ensure the production of "Simon's Play" for the benefit of the St. Vincent Parish in Albagan, eight kilometers from the Poblacion of Iriga, Camarines Sur. Fr. Jerry Abaya, the first parish priest of the church.

Trent Rajamond Subbay, who's assistant director, said that since they were both, he said "Mama Mary will help."

Dimacuha also said he used to Virgin telling him to bring five persons to help him. All five men had ailments. When they finally found the image, all of them were healed.

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Playdates

Prior to its Manila gala, "Simon's story" will have a special Holy Week presentation at the Block, SM City North Edsa on April 17, 4 p.m. Other dates: March 24 (7 p.m.); March 25 (1:30 and 7 p.m.); March 26 (1:30 and 4 p.m.) at the Entertainment Mile. Ballet Bicolandia is in Naga City, March 26 (7 p.m.) at University of North Eastern Philippines auditorium in Iriga City. The Legazpi City government and Aquinas University will sponsor a special show on May 14, 7 p.m. at the Legazpi Amfiteatro. For tickets, call 728-4432; or visit Cora (09156-473-3180), Steve (0927-472-0343), or Jojo (Encore World Manila, 0917-872-0730). Call 908-8890 (RWM Tour Center).

Santa Claus

The feast day of Santa Claus (April 9) will be celebrated in a special way by the Avilla family and the people of San Andres resort in Catanduanes.

There will be a Thanksgiving Mass in the church due to good harvest. There have been no typhoons this year so there is so much palay, according to Teddy Avilla who is the descendant of Isidro Claus.

There will be a potlood in Villa Avilla where the saint is enthroned in the second floor facing the church across the plaza. The rest is seen from the street, blessing all the people who pass by. The motley choir headed by Capt. Leopoldo Avilla, "Orpedo Ran Sikod 2007" member will gather on that day to fundraising.

Holy Land pilgrimage

To celebrate Easter, Fr. Benny de Guzman, SJ will bring pilgrims to the Holy Land on April 17. Then, on May 16 to 31, Fr. Benny will act as chaplain to a group of pilgrims visiting the Marian shrines in Europe.

From Manila to Lisbon, they will visit the Cathedral of St. Anthony de Padua, then proceed to Santarem where the first Eucharistic miracle took place. Then onto Fatima, Portugal, where Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta on May 13, 1917 to request to bring the Gospel as a world that was slipping away from us.

Our Lady said, "Pray the rosary everyday and make sacrifices for sinners."

The pilgrimage also includes Madrid, Avila, Zaragoza, where one can see Our Lady of the Pillar. Lourdes, where one can immerse in the healing waters; Paris, Lisieux, Nevers, where one can see the uncorrupted body of St. Bernadette Soubirous and Rome. See DFO Travel House at (0939-633-9166 or call tel. 519-6064).

Visionary Mere Began

For the past 17 years, Nera Began claims to have been receiving messages from the Blessed Mother and Jesus Christ through inner locution at the Adoration Chapel in Magallanes Church.

Last Feb. 27 at 6:35 p.m., Maria Mary reportedly told the seer, "All mass made calamities are happening, are you aware?" All these have been said a long time ago are here. Are you prepared? So many sudden deaths, so many unusual things. Prepare, prepare, prepare. Now, I bless you all."

Last March 2, at 3:40 a.m., the Blessed Mother reportedly said, "Go to Mass after Mass, Receive to confession to a priest. Do not waste time. Be always prepared."

'Sounds of Lent'

Fr. Lawrence Ho, parish priest of Holy Family Parish in Parang, Marikina, will give a recollection on April 2, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organized by the Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls, an anticipated Mass will be said at 5 p.m. Call 532-2828.

The New Zealand experience...

From page E3

Australian ambassador Julian and Nelia Scott, Greta Bella's Raul and Marina Avanzado with her sister Marilen Nabie, Cathay Pacific's Cebu manager Camilla Taylor and passenger sales supervisor Connie Claudiosa.

We also had glimpses of Michael and Joanna Cloulliet, Sweden's Honorary Consul Joel Jala with wife Susan, UK Honorary Consul Wong Jackson and Auckland Attorney Antonio and Jessica Bello, Jerome Escano, Cecille Ila, a of Blue Horizons, Rene and Margie Villarico, Qatar Airways's Raymond Chan, and NZ embassy staff Joan Lim and Edwin Perez who is the chef.

Jonah Joseph was asked if his enterprise, Darren & Rowley, distributed the fine wines served that evening. "Some and drop by the place," was his answer. His shop in Greenwoods does have quite a stock of the fine wines in the world, New Zealand included, of course. Lisa and Jun Fernando (Carmen) are range owns of the most exciting wine-tasting parties in Cebu.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Empowered women—their products tell their life stories /C7

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Bienvenido Tantoco celebrates 90th birthday at Paco Market

It's a sentimental journey

AMAS under Bienvenido N. Tantoco, Sr., the patriarch of the luxury retail chain, has a unique way of celebrating his 90th birthday on April 7—he will spend it at the restored and redeveloped Paco Market in Manila.

The launch and blessing of the market's dry goods section will be held in his honor.

In a way the market holds a sentimental value in the life of the ambassador. It was near there, in San Marcelino, that he and his wife Glory started their retail business 50 years ago—first out of their home and then as a store which would be known as Rustan's.

The Rustan Group of Companies is among the private businesses that donated to the Paco Market Redevelopment Project. The ambitious and crucial project needs about P75 million.

Built in 1911, the original Paco Public Market was among the early structures in Manila built in the American colonial period.

Like all the public buildings it went to ruin, alongside the polluted Estero de Paco.

When ABS-CBN Foundation head Gina Lopez framed the Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig, it became evident that if the Ilog River was to be rehabilitated, its unwanted sign that pollute it must also be cleaned up. That was how the Paco Market Redevelopment Project came about, spearheaded by the country's top urban planners and designers, all of them volunteers, such as Maja Oliveros-Co.

This group of never-say-die visionaries is working hard to create a contemporary center of commerce, culture and community out of the decrepit and filthy public market.

Done—and if—this is done, the redeveloped Paco Public Market will redefine how the urban Filipino regards his public place.

Ambassador Tantoco is indeed blessed to see it to his lifetime.

From mountain to sea, Oman's backroads are full of surprises
STORY ON PAGE F1

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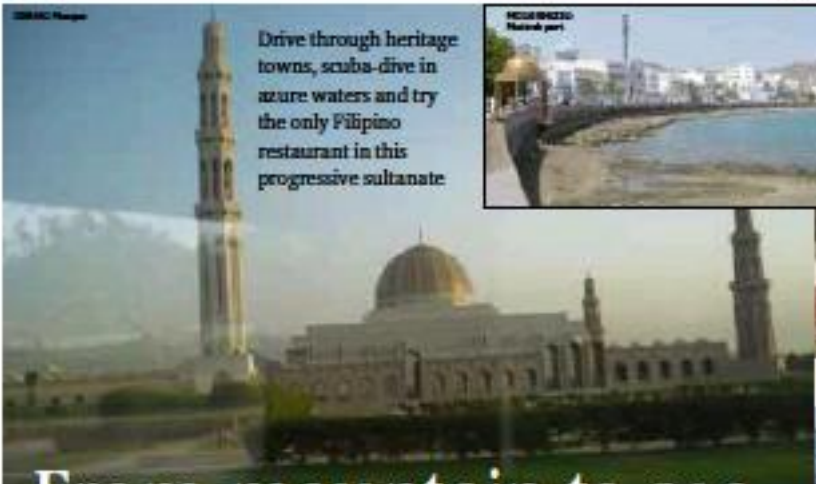


Drive through heritage towns, scuba-dive in azure waters and try the only Filipino restaurant in this progressive sultanate

From mountain to sea,
Oman's backroads are full of surprises

By Carlos Santos-Viola
Contributor

THE LANDSCAPE of the Sultanate of Oman is truly one of a kind, with jagged jebels (mountains) and deep, lush wadis (valleys) that would fascinate geologists and rock climbers of any category.

Sandwiched on the south by the United Arab Emirates, on the northwest by Saudi Arabia, and on the southwest by the Republic of Yemen, Oman is lined with barren rocky mountain ranges, riverbed-like valleys and arid highlands.

Small farm villages dot the valleys, and mountain slopes with electric spring water running through them allow farms to grace their palms, grapes, pomegranates, limes, bananas, garlic, onions, beans.

A place in maritime history

The Omani coastline stretches over 3,000 km long, earning its seafaring nation a place in the history of the Arabian maritime trade. The Sea of Oman with its intense tropical sun, weathered in the evening scenes in their fish markets, where fresh tuna, king mackerel, jacks, redfish, sardines and wild prawns dominate the daily catch.

Oman's climate is generally hot and humid along the coast. As protection from the sun's heat, the traditional attire for men is called dishdasha, a long, sleeveless, ankle-length white robe with head gear and leather slip-ons. The females wear a set of, a three-length black long-sleeved dress with a khaf or head scarf.

It was only in 1970 when Sultan Qaboos bin Said initiated the modernisation of Oman, transforming dirt roads into two lane highways cutting through mountains and valleys.

Some 31 percent of its population of 2.5 million live in its capital, Muscat, and the Batinah coastal plain settlements of the capital. About 800,000 of these are guest workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt and Jordan, as well as over one thousand Filipino workers.

Once a walled city, Muscat has kept vestiges that parallel Manila's appearance, as Portuguese colonists founded it as a base. Stone and sand watch towers built on the surrounding mountains augmented natural fortifications. Today the walls no longer exist, and have been replaced by a symbolic modern archway hosting a museum.

The Persians, French and British also set foot in Oman. The latter established treaties of friendship and commerce that have lasted to the present time. They provided security to the sultanate, and supported the 1970 palace coup where Sultan Qaboos bin Said overthrew his father.

British influence is evident even in the vocabulary, as much of the road signage uses words also used in Britain. There are only two traffic seasons that air reports mainly daily, with male and female DJs with British accents.

Other commercial center

Equivalent to Manila's port area, Muttrah in Oman's oldest commercial center. It served as storage area for goods that were unloaded in old Muscat before distribution to the interior.

Over the centuries, Muttrah grew into a bazaar and business hub for merchants. Today it has also turned into a tourist attraction with its new souq (market). Since most are old wood boat building town, 200 km southeast of Muscat.

One of the important aspects of travel is a taste of local cuisine. A lunch menu of seaghetti or rice with saffron, called or plain sliced corn, baked flat bread, fresh veg et table salad with lemon dressing, stewed onions, and fresh fish in spicy tomato sauce was a delicious treat. One may eat the traditional way: Seated on a carpeted floor, with shared meal served on a single large plate, and eating with one's fingers.

About 21 minutes further south is Ras Al Jinz National Reserve, where thousands of green turtles lay eggs from June to September. Oman has protected this area by isolating 45 km of coastline, outlawing poachers and offering guided tours.

On another day we drove to the city of Sinaw, site of the Sinaw Fort. Built in the late 18th century, the fort's tower stars 21 m, the largest fort tower in the Sultanate. The tower is a massive sight from afar. Its cannons equipped sentinel provided a 360-degree view of the city. The fort has military stuff, food supply, and ammunition storage rooms to last its occupants under a long siege.

Outside the fort is a tower complex area where one can shop for local clay pottery, antiques (including an ancient rifled rifle), bullets, kanjar (curved daggers), silver bangles, rings and incense burners, along with fruits, vegetables and fish.

After a hearty meal, we headed for Jabal Al Akhdar, famous for its commanding view similar to the Grand Canyon. We came across a town called Nizwa, which was once but is listed by Unesco as a Heritage Site.

Scuba-diving sites

The most popular scuba diving site in the Sultanate is the Daymaniyat group of islands. I joined a regular dive tour that is organized by Global Dive Shop. We boarded a speedboat, and after 45 minutes, anchored north of the Police Island.

The Daymaniyat Islands are a protected area, off limits to commercial fishing, but open to sport fishing. From April to September it is prohibited to land on the islands due to the nesting season of the shore birds.

We dove off its northern side. The water was still, temperature was comfortable, and visibility was 30 meters across. The reef was intact, with plenty of reef fish. The dominant colors were brown and yellow, the latter from the schools of yellow goatfish. Colonies of a unique pastel blue coral were everywhere.

On our second dive, we saw a five-foot leopard shark resting with a resident cornetfish cleaner fish, a pair of large resident fishes resting, a spiny green lobster, hawksbill turtle and other reef fish.

Oman has some surprising seaside attractions, one of which is the Bimah Sinkhole. Located before reaching Tiwi, this natural site is about 200 m from shore, a hole about 40 m in diameter and 20 m deep, almost filled with turquoise seawater coming from a natural tunnel connected to the sea.

Wading in the water provides some relief, with tiny fishes nipping the dead skin off your feet. Snorkeling on the deeper end, we saw four freshwater guppies and purple and yellow sponges.

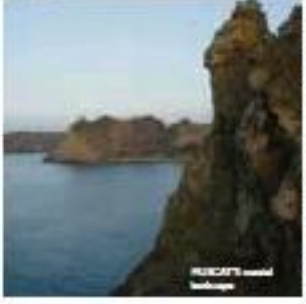
Intrigued by the abundant catch in Muttrah's fish market and clear water off the

OMANI students leaving Fort Nizwa

ONE of Nizwa Fort's several stairways

CATCH of the day at Muttrah fish market

OMAN's coast on large



MUSCAT's coastal landscape

ASK NICHOLS: Biking boat in Sur

pon, we decided to go snorkeling in the near beside Kalbiash Bank. Located between Marinduk and Cbit Mindoro, Kalbiash near offers breathtaking, aristocratic and wonderful an map encounter with Ocean's marine life.

Occasional meets and barracuda

The occasional flock of silversides like to occupy Ocean as an enemy fish, especially parents feed on nearby date trees. A variety of reedbeak shells lay on shore, while the ocean and clear marine ocean with sea. Our Ocean electric like surgeon fish with orange tails, parrot fish, juvenile jacks, stingrays, and occasional moray and barracuda.

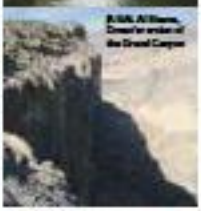
Another attraction, Shish Beach, is a little over site for a five-star hotel. Often visited by local weekend tourists, this stretch of light sandy beach guarantees everyone a relaxing time.

Shish's close more water is an inaudible call for snorkeling, and marble gungers, goat fish, green turtles and eagle rays are not.

Although there's still a lot of room for improvement, the Volunteer of Ocean has placed a high value on preserving its natural heritage, thus using a development platform of responsible tourism. Its tourism infrastructure is one to major investments.

Noncommercial non operators offer different adventure activities, such as desert safaris on island campgrounds, dolphin or watching, scuba and skin diving, fort diving, and more.

Of course, nothing beats swimming out on your own time with a trusted DIVO with, the, enjoying Ocean's exciting backwaters filled with surprises.



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Avail of the hotel's wedding catering services until Dec. 31. Contemporary P1 million or more will receive the offer in a four-day, three-night holiday for two persons at El Nido Marlboro Island Resort.

This is inclusive of round-trip economy class El Nido Airport/Marlboro Island Airport/Manila transfers, daily breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks during meals at the Club House restaurant; a pair of native slippers per adult; drinking water in the room; services of guest activity coordinators and a motor sports guide during the day tour and with bike; use of all water sports equipment; free use of mask, snorkel and full-foot fins; land and water activities such as island hopping, lagoons tour, kayak and canoeing.

Add another to the client's account.

A minimum of P500,000 worth of wedding catering are turned-in while customers in a three-day, two-night stay for two persons in a Castle or Verandah Room at Club Punta Fuego. It includes complimentary breakfast, lunch, dinner, a guest for assessment and free parking.

Call (783)7000, see tell the Meetings and Events Planner on the second floor of Intercontinental Manila.

Summer fun at Golden Sunset

The Golden Sunset's Bago Resort and Spa in Calatagan, Batangas, around two hour drive from Makati, offers summer activities for the whole family.

Kids can frolic under the sun in Golden Sunset's water parks—Kiddie pool, Olympic-size pool, Lazy River and water slides. They can ride a life or wheeling trails around the resort, identify dozens of species at the Butterfly Farm, or have an interesting history lesson at the Outdoor Museum Gallery. Meet and greet time are here wedding manager lessons at the Operability Spa in the Sun! or go fishing, play billiards, among other outdoor activities.

Nighttime brings the whole family together—for a jamming session at the Sunset at the weekend concert at the Sunset.

Call (02)8187 or (02)4133, or e-mail info@sunsetgroup.com.

Hawaiian Airlines offers new fare promo

Your view from Manila now have another new inviting reason to take the scenic route and summer vacation with Hawaiian Airlines' New! the Host promo for low site to Hawaii and 10 US gateway cities. Special

fare rates are all those who will book their flights between until April 1, subject to availability of seats.

Those traveling to the all have the option to take the special roundtrip fare of US$488 via economy class, for departure within Aug. 9-Dec. 17. Those interested to leave within May 19-June 30, may take advantage of the roundtrip economy class flight for only US$438.

The same round-trip fare rate applies for departures in economy class within July 11 and Aug. 7. Special round-trip fare via business class is available at US$1,388 for departures within April 19-Dec. 17.

Hawaii destinations include Honolulu, Kona, Hilo, Kahului and Lihue.

Those issued for any of the 10 US gateway cities included in Hawaiian Airlines' codeshare may opt for a roundtrip fare of US$828 via economy class. The lowest for business class is US$1,388.

Flights are to take the US$1,388 round-trip special fare also via economy class, for departure within May 19-June 30; or within July 11-Aug. 7, 2011. Round-trip travel via business class is available for only US$1,388 for travel within April 19-Dec. 17. The US$1,388 gateway cities include San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Las Vegas, Phoenix, San Diego, Sacramento, San Jose, Seattle and Oakland.

All promo rates exclude fuel surcharges and applicable taxes. Travelers flying on the promo rates are entitled to 10 percent flights between Manila and Hawaii. It flies from Manila to Honolulu every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, with connecting service via Honolulu to Kona, Hilo, Kahului, Lihue and US gateway cities.

Call (02)8845-, e-mail sales@hawaiianairlines.com.ph.

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Rediscovering the healing power of 'hilot' in a luxury island spa

When I was growing up, we had a favorite 'manghihilot,' Kikay, who attested that 'hilot' saved her leg from being amputated

By John L. Silva
Lead Writer

I WAS pursuing to my Annapolis golf cart through trek linings to the south-west end of the island when I screeched to a stop. A large monitor lizard, slicing straight at me, was frozen in his tracks and scrutinizing mode—all the paths. I showed it away, but it didn't budge. I sat there, took pictures, and hoped it would move on.

Five minutes later, I had to go, so I turned my cart and [illegible] slowly [illegible] inches away and looking quite peeved, it ambled on. I would have given him a few more minutes, but I decided no [illegible] monitor was going to make me late for my spa appointment.

The new Annapolis Spa straddles a hill, with a commanding view of the turquoise bay in two and the Quinalasa Islands beyond. Robby Tolentino designed it in the Philippine contemporary style. Meshing with all the other Balesin buildings, stone and villas dotting the island. There's a spacious new gym, a yoga and Pilates studio, and a beauty salon.

LOUNGE area

Signature massage

I had come for the spa, and, in particular, their Pula Signature Massage. You discover on arrival at the lounge, and are gently led by a masseuse to one of the private therapy rooms.

The room is in smooth polished wood, with a large shower area to your middle. There's a private dressing area with a sofa, a separate toilet, and large towels that can fit four people handily. And like all the other treatment rooms and the lounge, one wall is [illegible] with breathtaking views outside.

My therapist was a Taiwanese, from the neighboring Goyo Islands. An island people, trained in the Ayurvedic tradition, she had a touch that was gentle—slowly lifting my feet to rub a pillow under it, gingerly pressing

THE NEW Annapolis Spa was designed by Robby Tolentino [illegible] area.

PRIVATE therapy room

Calling all graduates!
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Nokia celebrates the end of a school year with free colorful graduation themes to download from the Store. Visit http://store.ovi.nokia.com or click on the Ovi Store icon on your Nokia. Search the "graduation theme" and your phone is ready to graduate to a whole new level! Congratulations!

swelling but tender—but was also unfortunately true.

The pressure was minimal at first but intuitively discerning my tolerance level, it intensified. She asked if the pressure was fine, and I groaned in pleasure.

The Pula Signature Massage also reported me indigenous Ishe, which for me produces childhood, so I decided to give that try.

Both hands, calm by calm, arms and sweep my back, starting my spine, spitting mothers, moving forward to my shoulders. The hands move rhythmically, intensively finding an achy spot, and the kneading action, the motion alternating between discomfort and pleasure. Shoulders and neck are rubbed with the lavender I chose. Further along the tightness. I recall a native healer who did this on me once, and her hands searched for pockets of hanging fat and dug inside disquisitions in the body. Her thumbs would apply pressure on those pockets until they were released.

Like reciting a mantra

The touch for hours continues at the lower back, the legs, and the feet. Since there is hardly any distraction preventing or penetrating, the cadence of Ishe is reassuring and consoling, reaching deep into [illegible]. Ishe is reassuring, consistent, repetitively and eventually reaching a plateau of peace, external awareness forgotten, replaced by an inner indescribable pleasure.

Hilot was a daily ritual in our family. There was a theories (nephew) named Hilot who had a slight limp from injuries suffered in World War II. She assured that Ishe would help her from being amputated, and she decided to let a evangelista (herself). She came to the house everyday and after lunch she would go to my grandparents' room and did Ishe first on my grandmother, bargained, my grandmother was ready for her [illegible] session.

Then it was my grandfather's turn, and he would be massaged while he took his siesta. One memorable day was off (literally) to Ishe, all five. Then it would be my parents' turn. Other were around, but if not, Kikay would rest because, a privilege of being the oldest grandson. On special occasions, Kikay would come for dinner, and during dessert she would massage the shoulders of those who seemed in. One connected more readily open for the treat, and my would smiles as Kikay rubbed their shoulders, eliciting moans and groans on the dessert table.

My memories gently reinjected that it was over, my eyes opened to a room bathed in gold. A dramatic sunset had cast its magical color on the [illegible] sounds, seeping in to waft into the therapy room.

The Annalis was striking but with dinner to an hour, I opted for the shower. I stood with delight the scent of lemon grass on the soap.

I managed to make it to my cart and meandered the windy island, making it back, by moments, to my hillside room. I was feeling sublime much of the way, pleased with the full moon's blue and white rings. The interlocking pearls were overcome by the saltwater mist. An added eerie effect heightened; even more on a primeval island with its gnarly trees, swaying palm trees, and a calming, glistening sea.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

"TAGAYTAY is also a great place to bring visitors who've recently visited Tanay Pinagkamalig Eco-Park. It's an easy escape from the hustle and bustle of Metro Manila being only 90 minutes away. Our Pahinig Village restaurant has great Filipino food and overlooks one of the scenic skylines. From embarking to paintball, dirt-biking to the zoo, there are countless ways to spend your stay at Island Cove."

A short drive from town-famed Roza Tagaytay and the iconic Conchal Beach also awaits Island Cove Resort for the quintessential tropical island paradise experience.

"CAVITE, no exception, is the best example of progress not only of Metro Manila. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created by its industrialization with countless others benefiting from its downstream effects. At the same time, the province has been able to maintain its rustic, provincial charm for its residents, who've always been willing hosts to visitors and tourists alike."

Gilbert Remulla was instrumental in bringing this resort to My City, My SM Lancaster, New Cavite City. Here he is shown beside the panel interviewing his colleagues with Dr. Emerlito Isabel Diaz-Rex, Cavite Vice Gov. Boy's Candelariano, and Cavite provincial board member Ben Mangubat, joining them are SM vice president for Marketing Millie Dizon, group brand manager Rhoda Tan Gonzales and assistant mall manager Raymond Jr. Flores.

Gilbert Remulla and his Cavite

"IF I could bring tourists to Cavite, I would take them to Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park. It's an easy escape from the hustle and bustle of Metro Manila being only 90 minutes away. Our Pahinig Village restaurant has great Filipino food and overlooks one of the scenic skylines. From embarking to paintball, dirt-biking to the zoo, there are countless ways to spend your stay at Island Cove."

A short drive from town-famed Roza Tagaytay and the iconic Conchal Beach also awaits Island Cove Resort for the quintessential tropical island paradise experience.

WITH his many talents, Gilbert Remulla has over the years been known as a broadcast journalist, a politician and a businessman, but over and above these, he is proudly a Caviteño at heart.

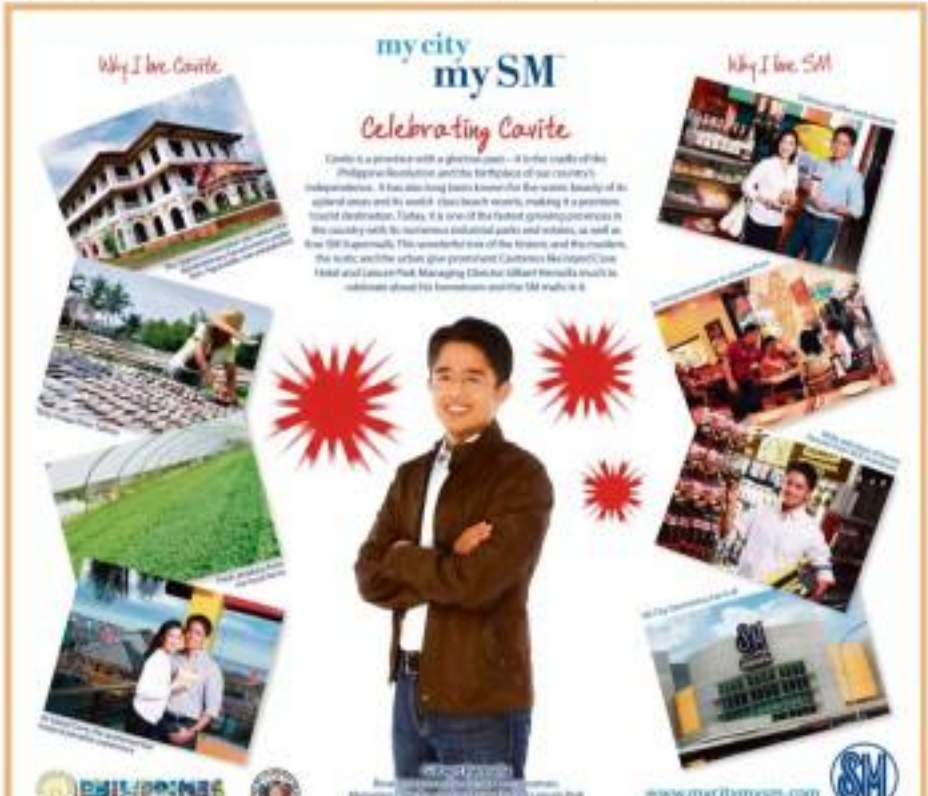
"I come from a family of full-blooded Caviteños," says Gilbert, who is now the managing director of Island Cove and Leisure Park, a 24-hr tourism-oriented facility in Ilaya, Cavite. The Remulla side hails from Imus, while the Catalayan side is from Naic.

His family has been in public service since the time his father, Juanito Remulla was elected as a provincial board member in the 1950s. It was during his father's re-election as governor of the province in the 1980s

QUERY 42

"I LIKE SM for the same reason that countless others do—it is a safe, clean and comfortable gathering place that caters to our shopping, viewing, eating, relaxing, meeting and having casual fun needs. By these plus other people from all walks of life even participate in some of community-to-the-people events," Gilbert said while being interviewed at Manila Bloack at SM City Bicutan.

"HOUSEKEEPING, there are a few matters that I would like to bring to your attention. Participation in the upcoming Cavite Fiesta delights...



Historic shrine, 'ecotherapy' spa, mineral resort–Cavite and Tagaytay beckon

By Irene C. Perez

IF YOU THINK you've seen everything in Cavite, think again. There are many more places in the province you could check out this summer. Pack your bags, slather on sunscreen and plan your road trip around this itinerary. Read on!

ISLAND COVE HOTEL AND LEISURE PARK

Binakayan, Kawit, tel. (046)970-4004,277; 4-7682 to 3; www.islandcovehotel.com

Accredited by the Department of Tourism as a 'triple A' resort, Island Cove offers more than a refreshing dip in the pool and relaxing accommodations. It's a sprawling resort with a cluster of several restaurants, gym and spa, inn and facilities for outdoor activities.

Survival Water Park has a 2,000-sq m, two-level pool with four giant slides. Adventure Cove features team-building activities like paintball, airsoft and a challenge course. The Animal Island is a zoo where you can see over a hundred crocodiles, ostriches, monkeys, snakes and herds of deer, plus peacocks and other birds (entrance is P100). Bikes for rent are also available (P50-100).

The hotel has newly updated rooms and charming cottages, with comfy bedding, air-conditioning, direct dial phone and a private balcony. Scrubs and massages like the local dayadayan and Arlot are available at Island Spa; the resort's exercise facilities are available at the Fit Club gym.

Have fresh seafood and dine al fresco-style by the beach at the Fishing Village restaurant. Have all-day dessert and coffee at i-Café. A round of drinks is available at Sangley Point Bar and Grill. Then, sing your favorite tunes with friends at Bayside KTV.

NURTURE SPA VILLAGE

Barangay Molino II (Phase 1), Bacoor, tel. (046) 4200800 to 09201; (02) 8982-7242; www.nurturecare.com.ph

Nurture Spa Village is nestled in lush Tagaytay and offers "ecotherapy," or healing through nature. There's a pool, Asian-style rooms, resort-style treatment rooms with views of a lovely garden or tropical forest.

The spa village was named one of the 28 Most Relaxing Spas in Asia by CNN Go in 2010 and one of the Top Seven Spas of the Philippines by Asia Spa Magazine 2010 issued, a Hong Kong luxury magazine.

Choose from its extensive menu of massages, scrubs, body polishes and wraps, and hone your facials. Spend the day or stay overnight at the extended cabanas. Nurture Spa also hosts events and weddings.

TABLE a resort in Binakayan in Kawit is the ancestral house of former Gen. Baldomero Aguinaldo, Magdalo president and Secretary of War during the First Philippine Republic.

BALDOMERO AGUINALDO SHRINE

Binakayan, Kawit; tel. (046) 4860982; (0906) 2412982

You've probably been to the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, from which balcony the Philippine flag was waved. Now go visit the old house of Aguinaldo's first cousin, Gen. Baldomero Aguinaldo, Magdalo president and Secretary of War during the First Philippine Republic. He was also one of the signatories of the Biak-na-Bato Republic.

The ancestral house in Binakayan in Kawit was built in 1906 and was restored and opened to the public as a historical site in 1982. The two-level structure is made mostly of hardwood like narra and molave, and features high and wide windows that allow natural light and ventilation. There's a sitting room for viewing firewood and produce. The kitchen with slanted bamboo flooring has clay water jugs, *palayok* and a traditional yogurt.

Relics and memorabilia of the former general like his old desk and bed can be seen around the house. His remains lie in the garden. There's also a kamalig (storage hut for palay) which has been converted into a mini-museum.

RIO NUEVO RESORT MINERAL RESORT

Bulihan, Silang; tel. (046) 4700004

If you want to laugh it up, Rio Villa Nueva Resort has one enjoy-spring pools in a pool setting. All 11 pools in this mineral resort come from this area's hot springs. Managers Lily and Rodrigo Pulido explained they were able to do so under a unique setup. For the Mineralo kids' section, water is piped directly from the source into the pool. There are rooms, cottages, pavilions, tables for rent. Guests can bring their own food, cook their own in the grilling area. The resort is open 24 hours.

LILY and Rogelio Pulido

THE BOUTIQUE

Silang, Tagaytay; (046) 413 7709, (0927) 3620960; www.theboutiquebnb.com

The Boutique Bed and Breakfast is an ideal hideaway for couples with its cozy rooms named after particular emotions: "I lust," "I dote," "I dream," "I desire," "I surrender," "I love," "I escape."

The service is tailored to each guest. Upon checking in, guests are assisted by the powder room to choose the scent for their toiletries and room. They can also indicate a need for special pillows to relieve head or backaches.

Massages can be had in the spa, while specialties like baby back ribs, Kahlua Pork Belly and all-day breakfast are available at the breezy Hawaiian Bar-b-que-in-house restaurant.

TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS

Tagaytay Highlands is an exclusive residential complex in breezy Tagaytay that offers fine dining and drinking, a golf course, collector cars and historical ride.

"ONE of my favorite places is the Bag Ma-la Honeybee Farm."

The Bag Maola Honeybee Farm is at the crossroads of the Malabling Bag which drains the largest river basin in Silang and the Bag Maola, which flows from various natural springs within the Magsaysay's family farm in the highlands of Silang, Cavite. This pristine environment is an ideal setting for a healthy rural lifestyle, and is perfect for keeping honeybees.

Photo shows Lisa and Jonathan Magsaysay in the farm founded by their father Joel Magsaysay. Bag Maola Honeybee Farm sells natural products using many raw materials sourced from the farm.

Gilbert Remulla and his Cavite

"IF THERE is any informal benchmark for progress in any town, city, or province, it would be the SM mall. For SM to invest in Cavite and build four malls, the message sent is that Cavite is on top of the progress chain.

With the continued affluence by both the Caviteños by birth and by choice, SM has provided all the comforts and products of Metro Manila to mall-goers in the province. The latest movies, fashion trends and products are available without the need to make the trek to the busy metropolis. It makes us feel that we have arrived."

SM City Dasmariñas is one of the four SM malls in Cavite. The others are in Bacoor, Rosario and Molino.

From page 64

Had Cavite been transformed from a sleepy backwater to a bustling industrialized province with one of the highest rates of economic growth over the past three decades.

Gilbert himself

READING 65

"THE MAINEO wines of San Roberto is worth a trip to Cavite."

Roberto "Obet" A. Concepcion of the Concepcion's Winery Corporation, maker of the award-winning signature mango and coffee wines, the oldest mango wine in agricultural terms, the sweetest ripe mangoes, while the young, green mangoes that is extracted from semi-ripe mangoes from selected places in the Philippines. The exquisite premium coffee wine is extracted from the finest coffee beans from the province of Cavite.

FILIPINO staples Pork Bbq, Roast Beef, Cream Dory Fillet, Supremo pizza, Kare-Kare in Kangkong pot, and blueberry cheesecake served in wine glass

Heirloom recipes, 'revolutionary' menu

PAMANA Restaurant

ANTIQUE longcase displayed in Malen's

OLD furniture put to good use in Pamana restaurant

By Armelle S. Tayao

TAGAYTAY is a one of Manileños' favorite nearby getaways, mainly because of its cool weather—and the overabundance of dining choices.

The trick is to find not just a good restaurant, but one with the right ambience to complement a scrumptious meal.

Pamana, along Aguinaldo Highway, is a classic Pinoy restaurant. As its name hints, "hand-me-down" dishes are its attractions—not leftovers, but concoctions based on family heirloom recipes collected by restaurateur Ingay Cruppenink. Singapore is a third-generation member of the clan behind the Barrio Fiesta chain of restaurants.

Bestseller is the Manileño Original Crispy Pata, "pork knuckles simmered until tender then fried to golden brown," which comes in spicy or garlic flavor. There's also Pamana's "Three-Way Adobo: chicken adobong puti, adobong sperentes and adobo flakes.

Aside from its menu, Pamana's restaurant interiors are also second-hand. Guests sit on old chairs Cruppenink collected from different relatives, while old furniture, such as big wooden cabinets, serve as decor.

The restaurant's white walls are covered with family photos, movie posters and other mementos, a showcase of one Filipino family's legacy.

In another part of Cavite, a different kind of legacy inspired one couple to explore and share their love of food. Malen's in Kawit is a Philippine Revolution-themed restaurant, serving dishes such as kebpombencia, Italian garlic sausage on a bed of fried rice, with fried egg and fruit salad; Revolutionario, chicken barbecue sausage, fried rice and scrambled eggs; and Supremo, pizza topped with Hungarian sausage, ground meat, salami, ham, pepperoni, mushrooms, bell pepper, mozzarella and cheddar cheese.

FRAMED family photos adorn Pamana's white walls

DELISH part of Island Cove's Fishing Village resto's Bugongan set meal

HARLEN and Rene Bunda of Malen's Restaurant in Novaliches

Malen's Pizza Pasta Bakeshop and Restaurant is at 3051 Magdalena Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City; (02) 4365207/ 4351634; malenskawit@yahoo.com.

Pamana is at 1715 Aguinaldo Highway, Silang Crossing East, Tagaytay City; (046) 4132401; e-mail thehost@pamana.com.

Unique products for 'pasalubong'

DAVTE IS home to creative and enterprising Pinoys who make unique products you can take home.

Husband and wife EJ and Eva Espiritu are the artists behind stoneware products from Cornerstone Pottery in Silang. The couple frequent trade fairs and bazaars, and supply stoneware to dining establishments as well. They also sell their wares at their home and pottery farm, some for as cheap as P50, others as much as P30,000.

EJ holds pottery workshops, too. It's by-appointment only, with each session lasting around two hours. Eva is more of the "designer."

"Most are jackpot—bigbo, because I'm a full time mom to our seven-year-old son Angelo," says Eva.

At least, one can stop by Don Roberto's Winery to pick up mango and coffee wine, award-winning creations by entrepreneur

EVA, Angelo and EJ Espiritu of Cornerstone Pottery Farm in Silang, Cavite, below, 'Gourmet's' range of organic salad dressing

Roberto Castañeda. There are three kinds: Sweet Mango Wine, Green Mango Wine and Brewed Coffee Wine, all uniquely packaged in triangular bottles.

If one is walking home, Sari-Sari Bazaar is your one-stop shop for pasalubong. Choose from colorful handmade shirts by Dibuho and bags with unique prints at the Kalfia section, or shop by the supermarket for organically grown greens and salad dressing by Gourmet's (from Silang). Armelle S. Tayao

Cornerstone Pottery Farm is at 2138B Aniban1 hi., Silang, Cavite. E-mail eva.espiritu@yahoo.com.

Don Roberto's Winery Corp. is at Lot 6 Block 20-Laguna Bldg., 100 Sen. E. Tapia St., Brgy. Anus, Cavite.

CORNERSTONE products

SHIRTS from SM Kultura

CLOCKWISE from left: Cairo Foods Enterprises' crispong bangus and carinos, Gourmet's condiments; Don Roberto's mango and coffee wine; colorful swimsuits from Coco Cabana

Gilbert Remulla and his Cavite

From page G1

representative) was then known as Cavite's second district in Congress, and today, two of his brothers—Jon Jon and Boying—serve Cavite as Governor and Congressional Representative of the 7th District, respectively.

Now very much involved in the province's tourism through his family's resort, he brings us on a virtual tour of his Cavite, his SM.

"I WOULD also bring visitors to the herb garden and organic farm of Gourmet's in Silang."

Owned by Mr. Ernest Escaler, Gourmet's in Silang has, over the years, become one of the top destinations in the Southern Luzon area. Gourmet's farm showcases its organic lettuce/herb farm, coffee roasting facility, Refresher's Cafe and deli shop, and processes its popular kitchen mechanisms and herbal tea lines.

Refresher's Cafe, the gourmet diner along Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, offers a sumptuous serving of what grows most abundant in the gourmet farm—organically grown lettuce transformed into a wide variety of salads freshly prepared in tempermental packs, cold and hot sandwiches, pasta and pizza, and refreshers signature cooler's made from a special blend of herbs and lemonade.

SUMMER DESTINATIONS, SUMMER STYLES FROM SURPLUS

Whether it's enjoying a sun kissed day on the beach, hiking up the mountains, travelling to one's hometown, or taking a grand tour abroad, summer is all about fun destinations. And wherever your heart takes you this summer, you'll do so in style with great finds at Surplus.

Here, student, athlete and fashionista Ally Lim, Football sa Kalye founder and café owner Peter Amores, Zen Zest's Michelle Asence-Fontelera, and National U captain ball Joseph Laslee Terso talk about their dreare destinations and their great summer wardrobe finds from Surplus.

Fashion available at all Surplus stores
Photography: Erwin Bellido
Location: Vivo Esplanade

ALLY LIM: LIFE'S A BEACH

It's going to be a busy, busy summer for Ateneo Communication Arts student Ally Lim. "I'll be doing radio and TV work as part of my *OJT*," she says. "At the same time, I'll be doing summer training with my track and field team."

Ally also hopes to visit many beaches around the Philippines this summer," she adds. "I just love the beach!" And she also loved the great summer stuff at Surplus.

ALLY'S SUMMER BASICS: "White shorts for the beach, tank tops for the warm weather. Brightly colored girly tops, animal prints, and a nice pair of stretch jeans for most dressed up occasions."

WHY SHE LOVES SURPLUS: "There are so many trendy and classic pieces of clothing that are all so reasonably priced. As a student, I need to budget my allowance, and it's great that at Surplus, I can really get my money's worth."

PETER AMORES: GOOD SPORTS

"I'll be spending summer teaching and playing football," says Peter Amores who's the Founder of Kalsa. Football sa Kalye as well as a businessman. "When his schedule permits, he also plans to do some swimming, work out at the gym and discover the natural beauty of the Philippines.

PETER'S SUMMER BASICS: "Generally a lot of comfy clothes that will keep you cool during these hot summer days. These include cotton shirts, dark tops, cargo pants paired with nice sandals for flip-flops."

WHY HE LOVES SURPLUS: "You'll always find something there that will surprise you, and you won't hesitate to buy it because the price is right."

Ally's Surplus Finds

"A hot pink summer dress.
A floral skirt and beige top for a very feminine and glamorous look!"

Peter's Surplus Finds

"Khakis, plaid shorts, interesting tops, and some colorful sandals."

MICHELLE ASENCE-FONTELERA: A EUROPEAN HOLIDAY

Multitasking Mom Michelle Asence-Fontelera will have her hands full this summer—with her duties at Zen Zest, the company she started, and accompanying her kids to summer classes at Kindermusik during weekends. Her summer destination: going to the beach with the kids and taking a second honeymoon to Europe with her husband.

MICHELLE'S SUMMER BASICS: "A lot of shorts and tank tops in different colors. Long summer dresses. Cover ups for my swimsuit when I am at the beach. Sandals, hats, and accessories."

WHY SHE LOVES SURPLUS: "It has a lot of nice clothes and other stuff at very reasonable prices. Imagine, I was able to get a long summer dress for only P399. Surplus also has a good selection of gym wear."

JOSEPH LASLEE TERSO: FAMILY OUTINGS

For National University Captain Ball Joseph Laslee Terso, summer is all about family outings. He also likes taking trips to the beach with his girlfriend, where they swim, take long walks and watch the sunrise and sunset. He and his teammates also join summer leagues to help them prepare for the upcoming season.

JOSEPH'S SUMMER BASICS: "Clothes that are relaxing and cool to the wear. It's also advisable to wear shades during summer."

WHY HE LOVES SURPLUS: "I like the store's concept – its variety of clothes and affordability."

Michelle's Surplus Finds

"A perfect pair of yellow shorts I can wear on the beach. Summer dresses in light colors. I love their printed shorts and tank tops. Nice scarves for our European trip."

Joseph's Surplus Finds

"Clothes, gadgets, and other summer stuff."

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Bulgari jewels were Elizabeth Taylor's 'therapy'** /C2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SONY

More Powerful than ANY Netbook!
It's a PC at P29,999

VAIO Y Series

closer to you. VAIO

Our new man in Washington is ready for the job

By Margie Dogdoc
Contributor

HIS IS not a Horatio Alger story.

Joel L. Cobin Jr., known to friends as Joey, is the eldest son of a respected San Miguel executive of Spanish-Filipino descent, the late José Cobin Sr.

His mother, the late Magdalena Lutgen Cobin, lost her mother at an early age. She was born to a German father and was raised in a convent run by German nuns. She was very much known for her delicious Spanish delicacies, such as paella, embutido, galvanese, and more.

Brains, energy, talent and vision are the attributes of our new Philippine Ambassador to the United States. He graduated La Salle University graduate with a double degree—Bachelor of Arts in Social Sci

(CONTD)

Rita Neri invites celeb planner—and Oprah's fave—Preston Bailey

FOREMOST EVENT planner Rita Neri is bringing in celebrity event stylist and planner Preston Bailey from the US to mark the 10th anniversary celebration of her event planner firm in May.

Bailey will give a talk and do book signings.

His books, magazines, TV appearances and interviews comprise the bible of mean event planners. His clientele ranges from showbiz—Oprah, Trump, Michael Douglas—to royalty Denah and Hrcard...

His visit is a first in Manila.

Neri pioneered event planning in the

(CONTD)

The Sharp-Cignal HD Difference

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Our new man in Washington is ready for the job

From page H1

cross and Bachelor of Science in Commerce Major in Accounting—graduating magna cum laude in both. He was a University Scholar at the University of Massachusetts, with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Wharton School of Finance.

When he joined government service, as **administrator for the Social Security System (SSS)**, he was credited with the corporate branding of the SSS.

As central bank governor, he led the effort in convincing Congress to establish the new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), which enabled it to perform more effectively in function of ensuring monetary and financial stability.

Visionary leadership

As president and CEO of Philam Life, he used his expertise to diversify operations. In 2006, he earned the CEO of the Year Award during the Hard Luzon Business Excellence Awards. In 2007, the Management Association of the Philippines elected him Management Man of the Year. With his visionary leadership, he went on to become the longest-serving Philippine president and CEO and the second longest-serving CEO, next only to the legendary Raul Cayo.

Representing the Philippine government in Washington, with its full contingent of political, economic, cultural, consular and press information sections, managing linkages with some 100 federal governments as well as international organizations, Joey Cuisia will be very busy as he assumes his role as ambassador, and will not be any nearer to retirement, as he had planned.

Coming into the US, which is now experiencing a high unemployment rate, his new role will indeed be a challenge. But Joey loves being where the action is. He believes his new position will enable him to make a positive impact for the country.

Cuisia's friendships with many past US ambassadors to the country, most of whom are now back in the US serving key positions in US government and the private sector, will make it easier for him to help implement foreign policy reforms for the country.

He counts among his friends former US ambassadors to the Philippines Thomas Hart, Frank Wisner, Steven Bosworth, John Negroponte and Tom Hubbard, as well as private individuals like Maurice Greenberg and Robert Bontrowski, past and current AIG CEOs, respectively.

JOEY CUISIA

New Philippine ambassador to the US Joey Cuisia has his work cut out for him, including unifying Fil-Ams into a 'potent force'—and serving 'adobo' at the Philippine embassy

Questions for the new ambassador

I asked the new ambassador some questions about his new job, as values and on becoming a better communicator.

What advice would you give a client who persons who meets a client's scheduled personal at a first meeting or dinner? How should the person start a conversation without being mannerish?

Honesty is the best policy. You can begin by saying "I have read about you ... I would like to know more about you," then discuss your point of interest.

In your new position as Philippine ambassador to the US, there will be even more people you will need to relate to. How would you accomplish this?

Our Washington Embassy staff is among the best in the foreign service. I am fortunate that I have such competent and seasoned diplomats in Washington, and I will rely on them to assist me. I will also have to personally visit as many of our Filipino and Filipino-American communities as possible.

When you and your family are presented to President Barack Obama, does our country have a traditional gift from the Philippines? Will you have a personal gift?

We are given a chance to present a gift from our country. You draw on a limit on the value of the gifts we give to US officials. As to our personal gift, we are still looking around for something that is unique and made in the Philippines.

When you entertain at your official residence, the Ilonot story stand, dishes (pasalubong), what food will you serve?

Our cook will probably serve culinary hungry, crispy pata, kare-kare, inchon kawali, chicken pork adobo and other Filipino dishes.

One of your daughters is getting married in the United States in September. What advice would you give her and her husband for their marriage to stay strong?

Both of them are Catholics, so my advice to them is to put Christ at the center of their marriage. While Christ is the center of their marriage, while Christ is the center of their marriage, while Christ is the center of their marriage, they can do everything and everything.

A balanced life

How does one keep a family intact and still achieve one's career and financial goals?

Have a balanced life—make sure you make time for God, for family, for co-workers and friends. I try to do this all the time.

What do you want to accomplish as Philippine ambassador?

There are three important goals under our foreign policy. First is to promote our economic diplomacy thrust, which means to expand our trade and investment opportunities to create more jobs in order to reduce poverty in our country. Second is to enhance National Security. I would like to seek US assistance to beef up and modernize our military capability and build up our counter-terrorism capabilities.

Third is to ensure the protection of the interest of overseas Filipinos, to provide support for Filipinos who get into trouble. A case in point are the 32 teachers who were recruited as teachers, but ended to work as farm workers in Louisiana.

What do you want your term to be known for?

The most important achievement for me is to accomplish the goals I mentioned earlier. In addition, I hope to foster the unity of the Filipino community in the United States. Unfortunately, as a people, we are very fragmented.

By unifying the Filipino community, we can become a potent force to support legislation in the US Congress that would benefit our people, both here and in the United States. I would enjoy the help of prominent Filipinos such as Manny Pacquiao, Lea Salonga, Leslie Nicolai Lewis, and many others to achieve this objective.

I would also like to encourage more tourists among the Americans, and I would also want more US companies to come to the Philippines to get to know their assets.

At the end of your life, how would you like to be known?

I would like to be known for the service I have done by my country and my fellowmen, and for having been a good husband, a good father, a good son and brother and a good Christian.

RUSTAN'S Supermarket introduces the Rustan's Bag for Life, a cost-reusable bag

BRIDGES in elections, available in Rustan's at great discounts from March 31-April 3.

Summer comes to life at Rustan's Supermarket

PRESS PHOTO Last year's grand sixty anniversary celebration, Rustan's Supermarket continues a year-long tradition of generous, excellent customer service and quality products with yet another promotion number as service for shoppers.

Dubbed "Rustan's for Life," the supermarket's 2011 summer campaign now until May 1.

First off, Rustan's Supermarket introduces the Rustan's Bag for Life, a newly designed reusable bag that shoppers can own for life. Each bag of Life purchase entitles the customer to double points on his or her loyalty card, with Rustan's to premember replacing the bag with a new one should it get too worn or worn.

In holidays for Life (March 25 to April 3), shoppers get up to 50 percent off on premium chocolates and candies, flavorful coffees and teas, ice cream creations, cakes and pastries, fine wines and spirits, and other gourmet items and imported products.

In Welcome for Life, Rustan's staffers will amazing treats and prizes. Six lucky winners will be chosen, who will each become recipients of 10 years' worth of groceries care of the supermarket.

Livelihood projects

Finally, one of the campaign's main highlights is Grocery for Life, for the donations of the campaign, Rustan's Supermarket's Bags for Life will be marked by special cup to make cure support for the livelihood projects of beauty and body care line Human Nature. Each P5,000 purchase entitles the shopper to one free Bag For Life, with Rustan's Supermarket making a special donation to the said advocacy.

Human Nature features natural, organic and locally produced items, all to be offered exclusively at Rustan's Supermarket.

Rustan's for Life is clearly out to guarantee yet another amazing summer.

Rustan's Supermarkets are located in Alabang, Greenhill 1 and Rockwell Powerplant Mall in Makati, The Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, Shangri-La Plaza, Fairview Center Mall, along Katipunan Road, Quezon City, in San Antonio Plaza Arcade, Forbes Park, Makati, Ayala de Magallanes, Cottolengo Mills, Ayala Center, Cebu, and 3 Seventy Mall, Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

No laptops allowed in my class!

By Dolor V. Artemonov
Contributor

Students take down notes with notebooks and ballpens. Yup, these tools for studying are still alive

THE FUSE shouts rang! "It's real!" I stood up from our lunch table, and I reminiscenced you're not supposed to bring anything out except yourself—to exit the door !View

As soon as we were all out, the general of the security guard sent on our floor whistled and said, "False alarm! They're doing something upstairs."

In the next lunch back into the Communications faculty room, sighing with relief. And then someone said, "Actually I wanted to go back and get my laptop." "Me, too!" a chorus of voices answered.

Almosts no letter, having long-rang laptops!

For the long morning TV game show, "frequently," the second finally become real. "frequently" is a bomb of wit and intelligence. You're asked a question, and you answer in a question. Soon, your mom, husband and all the members of the household are trying to answer the questions and cards each other.

After 30 years or more of TV airing, they finally did it: they put the best person who had ever won "frequently" against...robots—Watson.

Watson is a robot.

It was now the ultimate test of who was smarter: a human being or an IBM robot created by David Ferrucci.

Watson won.

Sleek versions

I teach at the Ateneo de Manila University. Does that add points to my credibility?

The true field of Ateneo are filled with human beings carrying a sleek version of Watson: laptops.

Laptops are expensive and are also style-conscious. The newer, the better. Just like cellulites.

Groups of college kids are sitting on stairs, sometimes with their girlfriends and boyfriends, also with laptops, tapping and tapping. This is the scene in all universities.

That's why, during fire alarms, you don't leave your laptops.

As the dream: laptops are allowed inside the classroom, this is my class they are not allowed.

This is where Watson has finally found his domain.

I don't like students with laptops in the classroom looking at another digital age balloons: a PowerPoint presentation.

Powerpoints are not bad, if used sparing by. Like in my class in Broadcast Advertising, we have to share cinematography, Internet advertising and editing—for the foundation of all of these came from line, and not Powerpoint.

If Watson takes over, you have a dead, sleepy class ready for the break, bored to tears, and not learning, because the word is just word, and does not go through the 1-2-3 punch of the brain process.

In my thesis or bias, I do not allow laptops opened on desks while classes are going on.

The old-fashioned way

The rundown do is the old-fashioned way (at least that's what they do in my class).

They take down notes with notebooks and ballpens. Yup, these tools for studying are still alive.

Besides, I can see if they are writing something important, unlike with laptops, where fingers are hidden from the teacher.

But, like Dalai, this is the Digital Age! Yeah, but the ones living in it are still human beings.

Let me tell you about one incident as proof. I was reading a class newsletter's else where I permitted laptops opened on desks by each student. They are taking notes, digitally I said.

Once, I gave a pop quiz and sat at the back of the classroom. OMG! One student had her notes on Yahoo!

From then on, in my classes, at least, at any college department, even at seminars and workshops I give, I ban laptops.

I hate this.

The creator of Watson was asked several questions in the March 7, 2007 issue of Time magazine, and I want to share two here:

"...Watson can be used to diagnose diseases. Can a machine make intuitive leaps like the ones Dr. House makes on the TV show?" (Answer: "That's a tough question...")

"If I tell Watson a joke, will it get it? Should it tell one one?"

(Answer: "Does the computer appreciate the humor? No, it doesn't.")

It was also said that the person who gave Watson a voice "one in a booth for weeks, recording words" that Watson would be able to use in Jeopardy!

Let's slow down that trend for a teacher and the classroom and her students!

Powerpoints and laptops are instruments.

The teacher, who is human, still has to teach.

RITA Neri's holding book by celebrity event stylist and planner Preston Bailey

SIMPLE works by Preston Bailey (upper right)

Rita Neri invites celeb planner . . .

BALLET designed this flower elephant for Juan Rivers' India Party.

From page H1

country—quite unwittingly.

An AB and BS Education graduate, she wanted to be an archaeologist. Instead she ended up organizing special projects for Iglesia ni Cristo, to the media, such as Easter egg hunts, Chinese New year celebrations, and even the gigs of Big Bird and other Sesame Street characters for children.

"I've paid my dues," Neri says, looking back on the years, including the many a weekend she spent at work.

She also worked for Virgie Ramos at Gift Gates—the matchmaking icon. She considers her work with Ramos as career-defining, for she learned a lot from the workaholic Ramos, including the latter's fastidious attention to detail and penchant to do everything new, not to recycle.

"If you survive Virgie Ramos, you survive everything," Neri says.

These days Neri is busy preparing for the 25th wedding anniversary of those hit Tess Roxas Bonifacio and Jojo Leal Mercado. The small celebration of close kin and friends will be in Glendale, California.

For her own anniversary celebration, Neri is turning the collection of the four major wedding magazines to create and set up their ideal wedding table setting, taking their preferred suppliers for invitations, cake, designer, event stylist, etc.

The last day of the two-day celebration will be an event industry soiree where all the suppliers/vendors, business associates Neri has worked with the past 10 years will be invited.

The May 29-30 anniversary celebration will be held at The Peninsula Manila.

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Irving Torres (third from right) is pictured with his prize, the Suzuki Raider J motorcycle. With him are (from left) INQUIRER Business Development Head Blair Marquez; INQUIRER mascot Guyito; Irving's wife Lorry and father Ding; and INQUIRER SVP for Sales and Marketing Rene Raimos.

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Eurotel shows the way in 'greening' the hotel industry

EUROTEL, ONE of the country's leading standard hotels, entered 2011 with the opening of its branch in Baguio City.

Recognizing how closed operations can impact the environment, managing director William Co briefly explained Eurotel's commitment to the planet through its environmentally friendly principles and practices.

"We were all humbled by Tropical Storm 'Ondoy' and then later, 'Pepeng.' We need to seriously think about how we all contribute to environmental damage," says Co. "We have to work together now, and the hotel industry, particularly with its consumption of water, electricity and detergent, should be there at the forefront."

For a start, the Hotel will maximize the use of sunlight in the design of its rooms and in all possible areas of the building. It will also use recycled and local building materials for most of its packaging, and conduct more conservation activities. All these are geared toward making it one of the pioneer "Green Hotels" in the Philippines and in Asia.

In the pipeline is a plan to harness rainwater for water operations not only in the Baguio City branch, but in their other projects, as well. The system will harvest rainwater and store it in tanks that will be consumed in the hotel's toilet flush systems. The rainwater will also be used for cleaning, gardening and landscaping purposes.

Eurotel now has five branches in Metro Manila—Araneta Center Quezon City; Las Piñas; Padre Gil, Ermita; Cubao Roces Avenue, Makati; and North Edsa.

In the planning stage are branches in Davao and Boracay as well as Greenhills, Cagayan de Oro, and Baguio Hotel.

Call 3111888 or visit eurotel.hotel.com

HOTEL lobby

EUROTEL Baguio

Aliwan Fiesta streetdance tilt offers P1-million prize

CONTINGENTS from various regions all over the country will vie for the grand prize of P1 million in this year's Aliwan Fiesta, April 14-16.

The event is presented by Manila Broadcasting Company and the Cultural Center of the Philippines in cooperation with the cities of Manila and Pasay.

From the Cordillera Administrative Region, Baguio City showcases its top local blooms. For which Panagbenga has become popular. Lanao will be represented by the Dansalanawan Festival, while Bicolnon Ahrs will showcase the Mike Festival.

Pampanga holds the three-days festival of Gawidalus. Bulacan's regional Singkaban celebrations will be represented by two entries...Cagayan's Halamanan Festival and Baguio's Cordillera Festivities.

Residents of Oriental Mindoro will present the quaint revelry of the Pandaing Suluan Festival, even as Batangueños' gastronomic pride will be manifested in the Galacuchera Festival. The Ilocos region showcases the Sungayan Festival, while Catanduanes, Quezon will feature the revelry of Bulan Bulan.

Joinder representing Bohol are the Arnis champion Tilibo Sinayan and Kasadyahan Festival. Pintor, which has set as its representative Iloilo's Dinagyang. There nine champion Cebu is sending the Abellanian National High School to depict the Sinulog.

Seeing action from Mindanao will be the Jesus Saviour National High School for Davao's Kadayawan, Tagoloan General Elementary School for the Kapanalangan Festival of Initan, Misamis, Magcuilmbanay, Kalilangan Festival of Iligan, Kadayawan Festival of Davao, Kalilangan Festival of General Santos City, Padang-Padang Festival of Pagadian, Magbabaya Lumbayanog Festival of Tirong, Bualdah, South Cotabato, and Zamboanga Hermosa Festival.

For the National Capital Region, Pasay will send its Dinahog festival, while Manila residents are hoping to hold the Bulong Bulong of Pandacan. Visit www.aliwanfiesta.com.ph.

McDonald's celebrates 30 years in the Philippines

FROM ITS very first store along Morayta, Manila, to becoming a 300-strong network of well-loved tradition Arches, McDonald's has been very much a part of our lives. And what better reason is there than to celebrate three decades of good times?

"The year 1981 was the year McDonald's First opened its doors in the Philippines, and it was an auspicious five hundreds and coincidences of Morayta, Manila, and nearby cities," recalls McDonald's Philippines president and CEO, Reuben Yeng. "The response was heartwarming, and every day since then, we have kept to our commitment to serve nothing but the best tasting, affordable food with excellent service."

The outstanding reception it received encouraged the brand to march out across Metro Manila over the years, and eventually in the Visayas and Mindanao in 1992, with stores in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

Iconic products

McDonald's owes much of its success to iconic global products such as the Big Mac, world-famous French fries, cheeseburger and apple pie, which are still loved by millions all around the world. Solidifying McDonald's place in the hearts of Filipinos were local offerings that entered in the unique Filipino palate—the McSpaghetti (1984), Chicken McDo (1987) and Burger McDo (1989).

More than just food products, it has been McDonald's commitment to adapt and respond to the ever-changing needs and lifestyles of its customers with some remarkable and groundbreaking innovations throughout the years: the one number delivery hotline 8-MCDO (6236); 24/7 restaurants (2004); 24/7 delivery across (2005); online delivery website mymcdodelivery.com.ph (2009); no minimum food purchase requirement (2010); and just recently the first cash-less mobile ordering system (2011).

"These newest innovations allowed McDonald's to grow with its customers during the years," says Manjot Berwa, McDonald's Philippines VP for Marketing and Communications.

Friends and lessons

At the very heart of McDonald's is its love for children and belief in the value of the Filipino family. The McDonald's Happy Meal has become a trademark of this, along with the McDonald's Kid, the iconic Mcdodrop and McDonald's Birthday Parties.

The McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop is an annual five-day summer program that serves as an avenue for kids 6-12 years old, to have fun, meet new friends, and learn important values and lessons along the way. The workshop includes no-fuss trainings, values formation lessons and creative arts workshops.

"Our humble aspiration for this year has officially begun and over 15,000 kids are expected to join," says Berwa.

Another popular McDonald's experience loved by kids and parents alike are the McDonald's Birthday Parties. With a range of affordable packages and offerings that cater to customers' every whim from, McDonald's provides all party needs, from venue set-up, party amenities, games and prizes, to favorite McDonald's treats.

For the newest member of the McDonald's family is its Kid Ambassador Jillian Ward.

"I really like celebrating my birthday at McDonald's because all my favorites are there," she says. "Plus, I get to celebrate with Ronald McDonald."

McDonald's Philippines has delivered products and services that have become part of the Filipino way of life. After 30 years, McDonald's looks forward to years and years more of being 'lovin' in the Philippines.

MARIGOT Torres, Jillian Ward and Ronald McDonald

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Ellerie G. Velarde

Hola tinola! Pinoy-Canadian invades the Net with Filipino tutorial video series

LOS ANGELES—*Misty Circles*

That's one of the many phrases that Filipino-Canadian Hillary Ramos Ulan is on to his phenomenally popular "Filipino Tutorial" video series that's generated on the Internet.

In his first major interview since he uploaded the tutorial video only four weeks ago, the Toronto native himself expressed surprise that his billing buttocks monologue on speaking with a Filipino accent or using the Ilocano for number one—the noli—as Filipino(a) have become such a hit.

The videos are being shared constantly on Facebook and getting thousands of views on YouTube. Hillary told us that the series' rapid rise in popularity has completely changed his life. He woke up one morning to see hundreds of friend requests on his Facebook account.

Rousing from there to seven minutes, the videos are Hillary's winking observations on Filipino quirks and foibles. As we write this, the Pinoy accent video, which he thought would be a one-time thing that would be watched by only "a few Filipinos," has over 470,000 views on YouTube alone. Hillary's skits on courtship, Pinoy style, and eating boiled (duck egg) have 221,000 and 140,000 views, respectively.

The 29-year-old's take on dancing, the ever-present Pinoy gambler, and lolitas

Hola tinola! . . .

Homepage 01

quino Accent Tutorial" video. There has been a very small minority that was offended. Most thought up the argument that "educated Filipinos" don't speak like that. One thing I remind those people is that details regarding language have nothing to do with intelligence. There are two different things. Having an accent does not necessarily denote intellectual inferiority. When I go to the Philippines, I have a Canadian accent when I speak Tagalog and I make so many grammatical mistakes. You don't find them funny, do you?

In the same manner, the only way he can excuse to be offended is if one assumes having a Filipino accent with being inferior, and that to me is what is offensive. Filipinos, like all others on themselves, have such a unique accent when speaking English. It's warm, charming, full of cultures and endearing which characterize the Filipino people.

Having my accent is actually a struggle, as it suggests bilingualism in the least, which necessarily threatens hegemony.

What do your own parents think of the tutorials?

They love them but I have yet to ask my mom what she thinks of our latest tutorial ("Chicanery of the Talents of Filipinos") in which she makes low debut. The mom in the video, though inspired by my real mom, is largely fictional. Both my parents rarely express themselves but they do show their support, pride and admiration for my work and achievements in their own way.

With the success of these tutorials, do you plan to make a live show and tour?

The thought of stand-up comedy scares me. Every time I watch stand-up comedians, I always think, "Man, what they do is sooo hard live they're so good at it. I wish I could be like that!" Invest in my wildest dreams did I ever think I was going to be considered a comedian. All my friends watch my tutorial vids and say, "That's the typical smug artiste Mikey was know."

However, in my shows, I always include spontaneous, often Filipino humor and the crowd always gets a good laugh. My Filipino accent relating to Filipino situations gets both Filipino and non-Filipino crowds laughing and charming 100 percent of the time. I have no choice now but to delve into comedy seeing [that idea excites me] and apply this talent, which I discovered just four weeks ago, where the "Filipino Accent Tutorial" was uploaded. Like anything I do, if I touch the life of someone, that's no fulfilling to me as an artist. I love people and comedy. I'm so grateful that people actually find me funny!

You probably couldn't help but see the world in a comic vein. What did you find funny in your "Canadian Idol" experience?

The "Canadian Idol" show had a psychologist on hand for all of us to speak with if we ever needed him. When I was in the Top 100, I thought the idea was silly. By the time I was in the Top 50, I needed the psychologist every day! Fame is truly a strange thing to deal with when you first get a big taste of it, especially the way "Idol" contestants are exposed to it. To me, the thought of speaking with a shrink everyday because of "Idol nightmares" is hilarious!

> 'Canadian Idol,' Bustos recalls, had a psychologist on hand. 'I thought it was silly. But when I was in the Top 10, I needed a shrink every day because of 'Idol' nightmares'

What advice can you give Tita Megin, who's currently a finalist on "American Idol"?

Never doubt herself, even if eliminated (she did), because there's a flaw in her that is making her enough as superstitious (but she had worked on them the moment she was born). The "Idol" experience is only the first stepping-stone to greater things for her if she continues to not give up and not lose her faith. There are droves of fans who will be waiting for her when her "Idol" journey ends, whether on not she wins. After a certain time, both winners and finalists become equal. Thus, enjoy and savor this God-given, once-in-a-lifetime experience! I look back with love on my "Idol" days almost every day of my life. Good luck, Tita!

Would you rather be known as a singer or a comedian?

I prefer to be known as an artist. I sing, act, write, compose, dance, dance secretly in my room and create with so many different media. I prefer to be known by various nicknames for the title that dance observing my work are most affected by. For those who love the tutorials, I am honored to be referred to as a comedian. For those who enjoy my music, I love that they call me a singer. For those who love my literature, I revel in the experience of being called an author or writer. For those who are fans of our many YouTube sex videos (www.sexcanada.com), I love that they still see the "Sun City" Who knows what other realms I'll wander into in the future?

What makes you smile whenever you go to the Philippines?

So many! Basically many of the things included in the tutorials, from the accents/language, to the customs, etc. I love riding the subway in the provinces. I love the rapidshits and parties. I love the food and that a plate of squid, which is considered gourmet cuisine and costs a lot in a Canadian restaurant, is served as bar food in the malls. I love how pinoy HIV [gives people sex].

I love the wildlife in the Philippines, including the house geckoes and huge cockroaches! I love the weaver ants (ants that live in the trees) which are known scientifically as Oecophylla smaragdina (never touch them). About but makes me laugh so much! It's just so unique. The commercials in the Philippines make me cry from laughter. They are so funny and no one else seems to find them funny when I'm watching them with family who lives there!

What are the differences that you've noticed between Filipinos and Canadians as far as audiences?

Obviously, the Filipino references can't be fully appreciated if they aren't Filipino, don't know a Filipino or haven't been in the Philippines. However, the differences are very small. Of course, the humor is slightly different, Filipinos tend to laugh at different things than Canadian or American audiences, but that's expected and wonderful! I do notice that Filipinos are very patriotic and support their own so much! I feel lucky to be Pinoy. Generally, a Filipino will be quicker to recognize the Filipino flag around an event or someone travelling to anything. With Canadians it usually doesn't go further than "Cool, he's Canadian," while with Filipinos, there seems to be more pride when they say "Oh wow! He/she's Filipino!"

Have you thought that the popularity of the tutorials is a double-edged sword, that folks will now tend to see you in a comic light, not as a serious recording artist?

No, the comedy side here hasn't really affected my recording for all my events, including the art stuff! These wandering into my other videos from the tutorials have been so wonderful as responding to my music, a crash that I've been working at my whole life. Many have said that they enjoy my comedy skits but truly love my music. Whether they prefer my music or my comedy doesn't matter to me. They're still appreciating my work, my creation. Many artists begin in comedy and later branch off into the world of "serious" like Bill Burr and Jason Patric. Some even do the reverse, like Andre Timbuchko via the "Saturday Night Live" skits.

You're also the co-founder, creator and co-owner of a store that provides art forms and art-keeping products. Tell your parents on, Arnab, sumitin mo ang mga kanggawa (Sure, what will you do with the arnis?)"

I've always been into animals, pets, bugs and insects. My parents had to put up with nearly every creature in the house when I was growing up. You name it—lizards, fish, dogs, chickens, flying squirrels, tarantulas, giant scorpions, cockroaches, snails, horned crabs, mice and hermit to fish. They're used to it all, and sometimes would say, "Don't you think you're getting a little old to still be playing with insects?" After the amazing success of the Ang Bugan...ang'ay shipping was started a kind product, as 24 countries now and being featured on Discovery Channel, my parents now get it.

See you later, "honey weighter"! Take care, dearest Goodbye, it wouldn't have been fun, esp guys!

On that note, readers, we say ciao, amigos!

E-mail the columnist at *rempulse_5000@yahoo.com.*

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

LYING IN THE PAINT

answer on page C2

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PIETO and Carmina Villaroel

Carmina Villaroel not the jealous type

By Allen Policarpio
Contributor

WHILE MANY COUPLES WEED to be in each other's company 24/7, actress-TV host Carmina Villaroel believes otherwise.

As far as she and partner Luren Legaspi are concerned, not crowding the other makes for a stronger relationship.

Carmina explained during a pocket interview at the GMA Network Center recently: "Aside from love and respect, it's important to give your partner space. Even if you're in a relationship, we make sure we have our own thing, and I can do mine. Hindi kami kinakailangan na kailangan together. Iyon'ng maganda, na doon mga bubuksan namin 'yung mga pinto."

She said she trusts Luren completely. "Hindi ako selosa. You'll never hear me ask, 'Saan ka pupunta? Sino kasama mo?' Doing even his meet?"

God-fearing

Being a God-fearing couple, infidelity is never an issue for them. She said—and they've been together for more than a decade.

She couldn't imagine Luren doing any hanky-panky, she said, since his career is almost equally divided between work, playing tennis and staying in the house. "Ang lagi nilang kinaiinis mga bagay'ng iyon, 'yung mga mall events," she said. "So paano naman gagawa ng kalokohan 'yun?"

When she's not "sharing" with other animals, captivating tennis, or taking over other people's challenging day jobs for her reality program, "Day Off," Carmina would rather just stay at home and hand with her 10-year-old twins, Mary and Camp.

Feeling yang

"Mahirama ito ding 'yung kambal ko, okay na 'ko. Pero mas TV, play board games, go to the mall, and watch movies together. Minsan nakakasawa ko rin eh, kapag nag-e-exercise ako. We encourage each other. Di pa 30," the 35-year-old mother related.

Carmina added that her twins help her feel young, especially Camp, whom she calls her little wife. Sounding out the girl more, Carmina related, she received one of the best compliments ever when Camp told her, "You're not like a mommy... parang you're only 10 years old."

Camp is a lot like her, said Carmina: "She's very talkative, like me. Her loves asking about my show biz beginnings ... Sabi ng my old TV commercials and film movie, Camp exclaimed: 'Mommy, you're so cute! I look like you!'"

Together with comedian Pekto Nicasio, Carmina hosts "Day Off," which airs Saturdays at 6:15 p.m. on GMA News TV-11.

Search for protectors of the environment

By Anish Adira

A FILIPINO-CHINESE businessman has launched a personality and modeling search for women and men who will become ambassadors of tourism and environmental protection in the country.

Galaxy Entertainment and Production Services (Indi Ilsa) Zhuang said it's time to have more events that do not only entertain, but also educate the public.

The Miami and Miss Ecotourism Philippines competition is his company's first big project in local entertainment.

"I'm producing this search because I believe the youth plays a big role in shaping the future," Zhuang said.

Zhuang's family matters air-conditioning units that do not use Freon and based on water or ozone to produce cold air. As such, they do not emit chlorofluorocarbons, which deplete the ozone layer.

The environment-centered initiative was what prompted Zhuang to merge his business model with entertainment. "I see a lot of potential talents in the country. I want to help them get noticed in the international scene through my foreign networks," he explained.

Ambassadors

Zhuang envisions pageant winners to become ambassadors who will promote the country's tourism and push environmental awareness. His company plans to launch an international pageant in the future.

The pageant is looking for female contestants who are at least 5'5" tall and male contestants at least 5'7" tall.

Applicants must be single, never been married and have no children, and must be between 18 years and 25 years old.

Screenings started yesterday at the Icon Club in Makati, and continues today at the Bellevue Hotel in Alabang. Another screening of screenings will be held April 2 at the Dolce Superclub in Quezon City, and April 3 at the 1521 Hotel in Manila. All interviews start at 1 p.m.

Interested parties should bring their portfolio, an early or photos and their own swim wear. For details, check Miss ecotourism or call the pageant's secretariat at 982-9586 or 0919-6240486, look for Luren Ella.

CRISTINE Reyes during the making of the Kapamilya summer station ID ... and Chris Tiu with a carnival, or Persian lyre, while shooting the "Mas Yo Bosa" segment of GMA 7's "Hale-Hale" omnibus TV commercial.

After the wooing comes ... the whining

By the Entertainment staff

HANDSOME Becker has gained a rather amateur reputation, having left a string of broken hearts in his trail. Fast, after the wooing comes the whining.

Pretty Becker "ran away" with Bb. debutg Sue Formidable Member, still the endorsee (wink, wink). Reality Champ thought she could tame Bb., who panicked in staying from the limelight and turmoil.

Lastly, Snap Actress confessed last with Bet'son and left in love with Bb on the set, Tanked out, Bb was only acting. SA ended up wooing Becker.

Rushes

End of a friendship

Flamboyant Celebrity and Liza Dantes have been friends for ages. Meaning, however, got in the way.

FC relied on GJ to promote a recent project. Much to FC's disappointment, GJ not only slept on the job—he ran away with a sizable amount! Now GJ is in hiding, awaiting FC at all costs.

Anne bolts it out

Although she's often teased for her pitchy vocals on "Showtime," Anne Curtis bravely sang the jingle of a new TV ad.

The unstoppable girl vows to record an album, to include a duet with Sarah Geronimo. That's what you call gutsy.

According to a mole, Anne treated the sales staff of a Bench store to an impromptu concert recently. "She wanted to prove she could sing," said a witness.

And how was the live sample? Reply: "She had fun."

Pretty-enough pair

Marian Rivera figured out why TV fans when the networks launch their summer stations IDs, or SIDs.

Both networks are presenting their 2011 SIDs today in their associative shows—ABS-CBN on "SNAP Becks' Dhonie, sporty Bird and UMM on "Sexy Pilipinas" (theme: "bida-bida, ipagsiksikan and chest quivering").

Kapamilya artists rarked various sports on-cam, including Dee did a park car with train Bb. Marian (from the Philippine Rodeo) and Fins Running Association).

The girls gamely went on the train pedine. Anne Curtis had an easy time because she has a trampoline at home. KC Concepcion and Judy Ann Santos, trying to prepare for the on-air split. Heart, Iza Santa and Max Manalo fell, but said they had a blast. Judy Ann, Manila helped child star Xtol Manalac (on guest her form on the antique fan.

Juan Miller took Vice Ganda for a free spins on his motorcross bike. Derek Ramsay did Frisbee; John Carreon, sumo. Gerald Anderson shot hoops. Jericho Rosales hit the swimming pool. Alan Richwood did a cliff; while Rachel Ocampo zoomed away on a jet ski.

Just for Rushes readers:

• Darling Dey's helicopter that was done in one take.

• The dancers (in the OR) on Showtime's winning teams XB Fantasia, PI Innovative and Boys Unlimited.

• The unstoppable girl is Stephanie Cabral, 12-year old ballerina trained by Ballet Manila's prima ballerina Lisa Macuja.

• Ana Abanes and Enrique Manalo had the same shed for their Bisconda shoot. Enrique arrived right before Ana left after her mom. Fans wanted for a goodbye kiss—it did not happen.

• Emma Padilla on the competition could not stop shooting.

• Derek Ramsay's bag wounded on his right forearm from a previous Probox game, but did not bother to hide it. He said that was the reality of playing the sport here in the Philippines, because most of our grounds are "uneven."

• Shaya Crespo plays a mermaid in her soap opera but she was very scared of the water during her shoot in Subic Beach.

Rapuso 'seventhos'

DINDO ARO is officially known as "2010 Halo-Halo ang Summer Saya" omnibus TV commercial. It highlights the nation's ten seeds.

Richard Gutierrez comes back as Captain Barbell (commercial: Edu Manzano hosts the refurbished "Family Feud: The Showdown Edition," Chen Tiu the "Wish ni Juan."

Ms Rome and stalin Dil Papa Jack beat the daily talk show "Star Box"; Jackie Rice headache cast of "Hindi," her first afternoon drama series, with Dominic Roco, Ian Batherson and JC Tiuseco.

Mark Herras, Kris Bernal and Rocco Nacino are featured in the assorted elements, with the wedding title "Inday." Carmina Villaroel takes on the kitchen with young JR in 12, duels in the reality competition "Amazing Cooking Kids."

Carmina will also star in a prime time drama, initially titled "Dancing Shoulders," with the original queen of Philippine movies, Ms Gloria Romero.

Marian Rivera has a new horror-comedy flick, "Spooky Nights: Presents Pampublika," a vampire tale. She likewise reprises Cinderella in next September prime time series to date, "Temptress," based on Philippine opera. Her leading men are Mcl Lucero and Mikael Daez.

The ABS jingle is sung by Julie Ann San Jose and Gino Magdaleta, who wrote the top positions himself. The commercial will be shown in 500 cinemas starting April 13.

KIM Chiu tackles the trampoline.

Again, only for Rushes ...

• The entrant in the "Miss Ya Bonga" segment is a cutesie, more commonly known as a Persian Lyre!

• Shaida Agustin performed his own harrowing stides for the "Kitchen Superstar" segment.

• Mark Herras, Rocco Nacino, and Xtol Bernal choreographed their own dance steps for "Inday."

• The Special Rapuso: Halo-Halo served in the video had all those appetizers: banana, mongo, langka, buko, gulaman, mongo, red beans, sago, gulamans, rice crispies, Asong, pinipig, macapuno, nata de coco, ice cream, evaporated milk, and cuddi!

Tribute to Liz

PITTSBURGH—Elton John paid tribute to Elizabeth Taylor during a concert in Pittsburgh by dedicating a song to the movie icon and AIDS activist.

Taylor died Wednesday. The singer is also active in AIDS awareness and said during Wednesday night's concert that it was "a sad day because today I lost a friend and you lost a hero."

In Live Nation video supplied to WTAE-TV in Pittsburgh, John says Taylor "stood up when no one was prepared to stand up and to counted against AIDS."

John played "Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me" after saying, "God bless you, Elizabeth. God knows how we're going to replace you. That is for you and your beautiful memory and for all of the people you helped and saved." AP

Book of celebs

NEW YORK—Actress Kate Winslet will author a book of celebrity self-portrait photos for Sept. 6. Jon Stewart, Meryl Streep and others to support the treatment of women, Simon & Schuster said on Thursday.

Winslet organized the collection of self-portrait photos for the book titled "The Golden Hat" after becoming inspired by an HBO documentary she narrated called "A Mother's Courage: Telling Back To Nature" that aired last year.

The film shows Still Ethiopians, an inclusive boy who suffered from severe tone orchid anemia, eventually becoming able to communicate through computer poems, including one describing a magical hat that enables an autistic boy to communicate.

Winslet asked more than two dozen celebrities to take a self-portrait photo wearing one special hat that has personal meaning, as well as including what their first words would be had they been suddenly able to communicate after years of being locked in silence.

Other well-known figures in the book include comedian Ricky Gervais, musician Lenny Marcia Shawgerton, singer Christina Aguilera and actresses Naomi Watts and Julianne Moore.

Proceeds from the book's profits will benefit Winslet's autism charity, The Golden Hat Foundation. Reuters

Story time with Bieber

Children across America huddled in front of computers as the "America's biggest fan(bie) story"—came back for the fourth year with ..... Justin Bieber! (wink !!!), the reading incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut, and, of the young pop star to be this year's celebrity reader.

Justin read his favorite childhood book, Dr. Seuss' classic, "The Cat In The Hat."

Top of the tabloids:

The top show biz news in the local social tabloid Bandera (and why we are excited we are invited.):

■ Hindi raw makumbinsido ang mga fan kung bakit Aubrey Miles ang gusto ng mga mga showbiz ng ABS? (Do they still want him/no one?)

■ Iyon kindi maubos si Ipe at grado-ation si Joshua. (Are we surprised?)

■ Sana, akin naiwanga dahil sa pagpapagamot. (Di ba?...)

■ Ang sampon na lang daw ajay; Bulls. (Ganito nang mahirap. Di pa-iwan nga mangingisay! Yun?)

■ Hindi ako nagpa- mommy, sori—Rochelle Pangilinan. (Sori na, ma!)

■ Baby James nga real name ni; may doble sesenta pa. (Dito natin nagpa-pera ruhaan mo?)

■ Rabaul hindi ako maghe-dyowa. (Baka naman pabingo lang.)

■ Pepe Smith may artil nang walay show. (Ay, may check para sa atin-ers.)

■ Isabel Ole hindi ko boyfriend si Jomar! (Which one?)

■ Judey Aimakabaker si "pag-a-artista" ni Yilmaz. (Sa empire lang yan.)

■ Judey at Sarah Cristine kono: "Hello! Mais kuming inomey?" Ok, hehe nakasali ako?)

■ Ang sarap nang mahasa ko kasabay ng aking sarap. (Dapat sa mas mahusay nang pahahasa ng kanilo.)

■ Alloy, ilang magkapartnership sa sampalan? (Personal lang 'yan.)

■ Lord Pio ayaw nang magkadowa? (Ilh nawon pa, ik ba?)

■ Marian "primera" si Rob. (May gulo.)

■ Alfie Morales, walang kahiyahiyan. Hinod. He still have time to study writing.)

■ Binalasak ipinagbuntis ni Willie, LM ang inakol? (PDH lang? We heard...)

■ Hindi akong answer anak— Shaleen. (Hi di... nako!)

■ Isa-isa pang pahayahay si Krista Kleiner. (Ash Reiten rin bang gusto nya.)

■ Mga dahlia nahahalog dahil Jay Christian. (Sa tumor?)

■ Yael Yuzon nagbabalot ng bag ni Kamille. (Where's wrong with that?)

■ Kuwento kinuh ako magkakapalan. (Hindi ba? Sa. Sa. Bi-lobed na 'to ha?)

SHALLAND PI-H shopping!

Host and Big Boss are best buddies. They would both give a fish monger's wife a necklace bee-toasting.

Palm-boomed mallers know TB and BB are likely to unleash P and P bombs in the workplace. TH, however, has been unchaperoned-ably notable of late. Is that because she has more pressing concerns, including Basil-sense Husband, who is said to be footing around?

Hide and seek

Brian Antonio, famous for being fearless, once hacked away from a potentially explosive situation.

A few years back, Bi was vacationing in the United States, enjoying carefree anonymity. As the cursed scenario, Bi spotted two familiar faces—Boy-wonth Boss and Beautiful Researcher, hands clasped in a non-platonic way. Bi and Bc are both married, but use to each other.

Bi was so embarrassed, she ducked in amid the nearest boxes.

Skip, hop, run ...

You know the hot season is officially

GLORIA Romero and Carmina Villaroel

"ILAWOD" cop-kills Bol Lucero, Mikael Daez and Marian Rivera.

JC Tiuseco and Justin Rios in "Hiad"

ALEX Seguerra's with his backup band

SHOW TIME

BAMBY D'Bossyman of The Script

THE COMPANY leads the roster of performers in "Save for Japan."

Simultaneous benefit gigs for Japan

"JAM FOR Japan," a six-hour benefit concert for the victims of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, will be held on April 1 starting at 6 p.m. at the Ayala Museum, Makati, featuring 26 acts including The Company, Eheet Sioco & Giacomo, Jessie de Jardin, Gene Lipana, Freedom, Jacqui Magno, JPK & Sandra Lim-Hing, Luis Enriquez, Mister Digby, Miguel & Evelyn Jimeno with Aquarela, The Law Linked, Mr. Bones, Nicole and Carlo (Mr. Cutcilla and Her).

Ticket sales for P500, all proceeds go to the Japan Red Cross Society through the Japan Philanthropic Mandala. Donations will also be accepted during the concert. Call 757-7137 loc. 30 or 28.

KILLER: Sioco & Giacomo join 25 acts in the benefit concert "Jam for Japan."

'Jam for Japan' in Baguio

Simultaneously a "Jam for Japan" in Baguio will be held on the same date at The Red Lion Pub & Inn, Baguio City. There will be no gate charge, except for voluntary donations which will go to The Japan Red Cross Society.

Alex Seguerra at Metrobar

Alex Seguerra performs in "Rated A" with guests Ezra and Ana Alicia on April 28, 8 p.m. at the Metrobar, 47 West Avenue, Quezon City. Call 438-7826 or 913-4163.

The Script at Big Dome

Irish pop-rock band The Script plays live on April 16, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. Composed of members Danny O'Donoghue, Mark Sheehan and Glen Power. The group released its self-titled debut album in 2008 which yielded the hit singles "We Cry," "The Man Who Can't Be Moved," "Breakeven," "Talk You Down" and "Before the Worst." Call 911-5555.

Kenny Loggins at SMX

American singer-songwriter Kenny Loggins performs on May 22, 4 p.m. at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia complex, Pasay. Formerly the other half of the duo Loggins and Messina, he went solo in 1977 and released the albums "Celebrate Me Home," "Nightwatch" and "Keep the Fire," among others. He also became known for collaborating with other artists (Stevie Nicks, Michael McDonald) and film soundtracks. Call 891-0999.

DIY: Typecast in Alex Seguerra's gig and joins "Jam for Japan" as well.

Vote For The Worst cites AI 'train wrecks'

ACCORDING to the website "Save for the Worst," there were "train wrecks aplenty" when "American Idol" finalists auditioned last Thursday.

Elise Testone's sassy rhythms almost got honorable mention, but the judges saved him. The site noted that Thia Megia was saved by Piero (correct: Stefano Langone by the tweens.)

Here's a hilarious recap of the Idols' performances, according to VFTW:

▸ CASEY ABRAMS, "I Stood It Through The Grapevine": "(I know it would be) creepy... and awesome when he ducked his hair back like some woodland creature."

CASEY Abrams

▸ THIA MEGIA, "Heat Wave": "She looks hot like a mini Lena... but still somewhat robotic. She's got the fake dance moves down."

▸ JAMES LUH, "You're All I Need To Get By": "Two seconds in, he's already spooning on and doing some eyelash fluttering, eases back with, Funny Face along with that Isabelle servant. Even Clay Aiken is crying at home saying, 'Girl, please.'"

▸ LAUREN ALAINA, "You Keep Me Hanging On": She strides through the first half, but then your snores the second half."

▸ STEFANO LANGONE, "Smile": "Don't like... fainting... like a millionaire hairdo and... but it's not fun like Jacob's lounge act."

▸ HALEY REINHART, "You Really Got A Hold On Me": "Weird voice... with the baby crooning and the growling... and more decade-appropriate."

▸ SCOTTY McCREERY, "Not Ready To Make Nice": "It's bad. Really bad. Comical. Did the judges all just get an orgasm from Scotty's performance? He's a minor, people."

▸ PIA TOSCANO, "All In Love Is Fair": "She screams, but it's less than normal."

▸ PAUL McDONALD, "Tender of My Heart": "A terribly off key... ends even more off-key and raspy than he began."

▸ SAMMY ADEMOYE, "Dancing in the Streets": "Her African dancing was just flailing her arms back over and over, but it was so cute smiling."

▸ JAMESON DUBS, "Living For The City": "Screeching but listenable... I was bored and annoyed and didn't have any fun."

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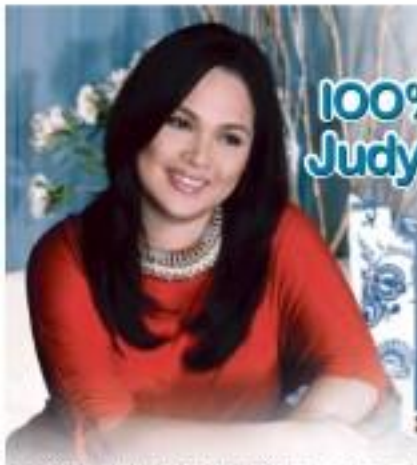
100% Mom, 100% Panatag: Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo



PANATAG ON SET. Celebrity mother Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo prepares for her next scenes during the shoot of the Nido/Lactum 6+ TV commercial.

PHILIPPINE viewership has a long-standing relationship with Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo: from her youthful days of portraying the kind but poverty-stricken, iconic Mara in the genre-defining soap opera "Mara Clara," to becoming the lovely bride in Reyes-Agoncillo's groom in a rare meeting of hearts and minds between two talented celebrities. Judy Ann is undeniably Philippine showbiz royalty, and her existence as a star can be attributed to not only by the number of awards she has garnered over the years, but also by the number of her dedicated fans.

Coming back from a brief break from acting to give herself time to enjoy motherhood, Judy Ann yet again proves her star power to the public by way of a new commitment. And this is no ordinary commitment, for this has implications not only on her, our favorite Star, but as well as on the family lives of countless other moms: 100% nourishment. Wanting to give her children no less than her 100%, she champions the cause of complete nutrition to every Filipino household, as guided by the food pyramid, an internationally recognized standard of proper nourishment, hoping that other moms will also pick up the challenge of promoting 100% nourishment wherever in the country they may be.

"Kids prefer milk that tastes good; mothers prefer milk that is nutritious — thankfully, Lactum 6+ compromises on nothing."

Both 100% nourishment and the food pyramid are the main thrusts of Lactum, her daughter's milk of choice and a leading children's magnet milk. These threads bring Judy Ann's involvement close to home—for she is spreading its message of nourishment not so much as a celebrity actress, but as a mother who constantly worries about her child's nutritional well-being just like any other mom. Add to that the fact that she is also a chef, having taken up culinary studies, which means that anything related to food and feeding is immediately within her scope of concern and expertise. This is why she is passionate when it comes to Lactum—Lactum 6+ being her partner in "kusinaan" in feeding.

The Drama of Feeding

The Lactum 6+ TV commercial in which Judy Ann appears tells the story of what every Filipino mom—Judy Ann included—goes through on a daily basis: that feeding children can be tedious, that it is a struggle, but can nonetheless stand tall with it every single day and overcome the daily hardship, no matter how repetitive, because a mother who loves her child will never put her child's health at risk.

Scenes from the project reveal Judy Ann in full form, brandishing a bit of drama, a tinge of romance, plus a side of the actress that audiences rarely get a taste of—action: a mom can muck a point of desperation where she has to kneel just to order to plead with her daughter to eat properly, a chase sequence can also occur around the dining table between a mom holding a plate and the child trying to get away from it; and sometimes tears can streams from a child's eyes when her mom tries to keep her away from the favorite food that she so desires and loves to eat, ignoring everything else on the table. While all moms are familiar with such hard domestic imagery, thankfully they do not have to face these trying times alone. For they have a partner that comprises three balanced meals a day in making their children 100% nourished kids—and that partner is Lactum 6+ with essential nutrients.

It's inevitable for moms to face such worries. The most common issue they have to deal with is having favorites in food where children tend to choose their favorite food over other nutritious choices, eating nothing else. Judy Ann attests to this, mentioning that her six-year-old daughter, Yohan, keeps asking for shawarma and French fries. "Kung puro shawarma at French fries na lang," she complains, "walang nangyayari sa nutrisyon niya." To tell if her child is getting complete nourishment, Judy Ann always refers to the food pyramid. "I suits sa food pyramid, makailang ang vegetables, or I try to sneak vegetables into her meals," Judy Ann narrates. "For example, gagawa ako ng spinach soup, but I tell her it's 'Shrek soup' para kinis sa mga," The actress certainly taps the practical chef in her for solutions. And because the practical chef in her has faith in the food pyramid, she also has faith in Lactum 6+, because its formulation of essential nutrients is inspired by the food pyramid.

"Kids prefer milk that tastes good; mothers prefer milk that is nutritious — thankfully, Lactum 6+ compromises on nothing."

A recipe for 100% nourishment and 100% peace of mind

On set, Judy Ann expresses her initial hesitation to let Yohan become part of the project. It is of course Judy Ann's instinct to protect her child, and she is in no way going to force her daughter to do anything Yohan does not want to do. Previous acting opportunities have been flung Yohan's way before, but this is the first time her mom has let her actually take one, not only because Judy Ann herself believes so much in Lactum and what it has to offer to her child's nutrition, but also because Yohan herself enjoys drinking Lactum 6+. This TVC hence is actually Yohan's debut participation in Philippine TV, and it has happened out of her own voluntary enjoyment of the milk.

"Masarap daw kasi," the actress explains, giving her child's description of Lactum. "I don't want her to say when she's old that her mom forced her to drink milk she didn't like when she was young," she continues, punctuating her statement with mild laughter. The idea that Yohan is only forced to drink Lactum cannot possibly enter anyone's mind, given the way she would finish entire glasses of it during the shoot in a heartbeat, even licking her upper lip in satisfaction as she smiles. "Siya ng ni Yohan 'yung ibang gatas. Ayaw, hindi siya masasarapan. Hindi daw," Judy Ann says of another milk brand her daughter has tried, narrating how ever she has had to add sugar to this other brand just to make it more palatable to her child.

Judy Ann excitedly shares that Yohan loves the taste of Lactum 6+, which the child has said her mom is possess just the right amount of sweetness to make it palatable. She adds, "Sapat is part of the food pyramid, and like everything in the food pyramid, it's good for the body when taken in proper amounts." She also stresses the reality that the right amount of sugar contributes to the taste of milk, saying that moms don't necessarily have to compromise on taste just because they want complete nutrition for their children.

"Gusto ng gusto ni Yohan ang lasa ng Lactum; dahil malinamnam ang sweetness and consistency nito. Di naman dahil matamis, puro na ng sugar. Una sa lahat, kasambahan ng mga gatas, may sugar. In fact, part ilang pagkain, meron gamot, kinakayan ng sugar para tatlong batayan: World Health Organization (WHO), Institute of Medicine, and FNRI that recommend limiting sugar content to 26 grams, 100 grams, and 25 grams of added sugar per day para sa batang six to nine years old. Lactum 6+ has 9 grams of sugar per serving, which is less than two teaspoons of sugar. Kulanitis ba, hindi kailan kaya siana lang. Dapat sa pasok ang Lactum 6+ sa batayan ng local and international guidelines for its sugar levels."

"Kids prefer milk that tastes good, mothers prefer milk that is nutritious—thankfully, Lactum 6+ compromises on nothing. On top of that, there is a Lactum for every stage. Kahit may feeding challenges as they grow up, there is Lactum who can be a nutritional support system because it contains essential nutrients from the food groups found in the food pyramid. Kaya naman, sa Lactum 6+ lang, eka 100% panatag," she concludes, with a special emphasis on "lang" to indicate that she strongly believes that only Lactum can give her peace of mind.

Who knew the recipe for peace of mind could be both nutritious and delicious? And easy on the budget too. An industry scan reveals how happy she has become since Lactum's price went down, with savings reaching up to ₱7 pesos. "Mas madali nang magpa 100% panatag," Judy Ann concludes. One certainly cannot help but appreciate Lactum for possessing the right combination of nutrition, taste, and affordability.

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BOYS NIGHT OUT & MIXED EMOTIONS

ENTERTA

'Queen' Liz's passing marks end of an era

ELIZABETH TAYLOR hasn't made a movie in years, but it's a tribute to her regal stardom and talents that when she passed away at age 79 last March 23, many people still regard her as the authentic Queen of Hollywood.

Younger film buffs may not have the luggage or valuable that is, but people on the "other" side of 40 will patiently but passionately explain to them that the entertainment world's own Queen Elizabeth has earned her regal right to being appreciated, loved and remembered long after her passing as the last authentic star of the movie world.

VIEWFINDER

Isagani U. Yarte

That unique distinction is due to her most unusual combination of great looks, talent, charisma, age, endurance, intestinal fortitude, personal love for life (and men), human frailties, achievements, great and giving friendships (with Mark Hanbora and Michael Jackson)—etc.

Which is not to say that everything about Queen Liz was absolutely admirable. For some years there, she was riddled as the oldest screen's most despicable husband grabber, leaving stolen gems in the Bobbie Reynolds' humoring Eddie Fisher, from right under her cute button nose.

Hubby-hooking

Yes, Angelina, Liz beat you to the punch by several decades, so stop acting like you invented hubby-hooking.

In addition, some people say her husband-hooking (so many hubbies, with her eight marriages (to the celebrated likes of Richard Burton, Mike Todd, Richard Wedding, Sen. John Warner, etc.), serving a sort of second (or third) career for female stars.

And Liz has also been credited for starting undiscovered acting pluralist, like her first Oscar for "Butterfield 8," which was given to her after she had undergone an emergency tracheotomy.

In addition, she set another record for stellar boy when she was paid a cool million bucks for starring in "Cleopatra," but the screen epic didn't add to her acting reputation because she was miscast in the role (she spoke her lines in a thirteen and with an American accent).

Masterful portrayals

Despite these inconsistency glitches, however, her career weathered any and all storms, because she did some up with masterful portrayals in movies like, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" (where she most deservedly won her second Oscar), "Suddenly in a Golden Eye," "Giant," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Taming of the Shrew."

Her private life was similarly inspirational, because she lived it to the fullest, despite many illnesses that threatened to abridge her luminous existence. But, she didn't let them stand in her way as she lived and loved "with great passion and humor," as a friend eulogized her.

That acute view of life enabled her to overcome "shooking" her otherwise adoring public with her outspurred actuarisms, like her "final" decision to marry her seventh husband Larry Fortensky, dismissed by many as "a construction worker."

But, when all is said and done, it's Queen Liz's great beauty and even greater heart that have made her such a driving presence and stellar icon to many people's lives, for, in, almost fourscore years.

The beauty, she was born with, but the magnificent heart that cared so much for the world's disadvantaged was entirely of her own loving creation.

That's why Elizabeth Taylor continues to reign as the Diva and Par-ass Queen of Hollywood.

Top 10 singles/albums on iTunes

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending March 23, 2011:

Singles:

1) "E.T. (feat. Kanye West)," Katy Perry; 2) "Lower Like Me (Glee Cast Version)," Glee Cast; 3) "Tell Cast's Get Enough," Black Eyed Peas; 4) "S&M," Rihanna; 5) "Set It Right (Glee Cast Version)," Glee Cast; 6) "Born This Way," Lady Gaga; 7) "Look At Me Now (feat. Lil Wayne & Busta Rhymes)," Chris Brown; 8) "On the Floor (feat. Pitbull)," Jennifer Lopez; 9) "Forget You," Cee Lo Green; 10) "Blow," Ke$ha

Albums:

1) "Tenderness," Sir Agatest; 2) "21," Adele; 3) "Loud," Lupe Fiasco; 4) "Sigh No More," Mumford & Sons; 5) "Glee: The Music, Vol. 3," Glee Cast; 6) "Live: The Greatest Game," Travis Barker; 7) "Loud," Rihanna; 8) "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber; 9) "Goodbye Lullaby," Avril Lavigne; 10) "Late Nights & Early Mornings," Marsha Ambrosius

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Seair animation contest extended

ANIMATION enthusiasts just got another shot at winning a dream vacation package for two in Boracay or Boracay. Deadline for "Animated Short Trick," a contest to see motion, has been extended until Sept. 15, 2011.

Awarding will coincide with "Animahenyan," the 5th Philippine Animation Festival, on Nov. 25.

Presented by Seair's East Asian Airlines (Seair), with the Animation Council of the Philippines, Inc., "Animated Short Trick" is open to all Filipinos. Registration is free and forms can be downloaded at www.animahenyan.com. Updates are posted at www.facebook.com/Syrean.

Seair Marketing Vice Pres. Jaime Bautista said the contest is "a way to encourage the youth to be creative and innovative."

"We were swamped with requests for a deadline extension. We understand that current creation takes time, so we are granting the request."

DID YOU KNOW...

Entries should promote Seair and its destinations and communicate the airlines' positioning as the country's premier leisure airline. They may be presented in cel animation, line drawing, stop motion objects or animated objects, stop motion puppet, stop motion clay/plasticine, sand on glass, paint on glass, cut-outs, pixilation, 2D computer/ flash animation, 3D computer, or a combination of these forms. Total duration should be 30 seconds.

The contest is divided into professional and student divisions. First place winners in the professional division, gets two Batanes round-trip tickets and three days, two nights stay for two at Batanes Seaside Hotel; second placer gets two Boracay round-trip tickets plus three days, two nights stay for two at Shimaya and Shimaya Beach; third placer gets two Boracay round-trip tickets. Student division winners get the same prize, but for only one person.

A participant in the school division is required to present, with the entry form, photocopies of his/her valid school ID and school registration form.

Seair will also give a Boracay round-trip ticket to the entry with the most number of "Likes" on the Seair Facebook fan Page. A link to the entry must be posted on the wall of www.facebook.com/Syrean before 12:59 p.m. of September 15, 2011.

"Animation is an edgy tool to promote our products and services," said Debra Godfrey, head of commercial affairs. "We also want to boost production of original Filipino animation."

Call 8172727 local 108 or email animationsea@gmail.com, and check updates at www.facebook.com/Syrean.

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GREENBELT 2

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SUE Prado and Jun Perez

SARAH Reyes, Nina Acosta and Ellen Ramos, directors of "Ganap na Babae"

'Ganap Na Babae' at CCP

HERO Productions' "Ganap na Babae" will have a free special screening on Thursday, March 31, 2 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Manuel Conde Dream Theater.

"Ganap na Babae" is a film for women made by women directors—Nina Acosta, Ellen Ramos and Sarah Reyes. The movie features a new ensemble cast led by Miss Bossa Amon Bea Gomez "Most Beautiful Actress" Mercedes Cabral, Union Bros Supporting Actress Sue Prado and newcomer Jun Perez.

It was the opening film during last year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival and Competition.

Cabral plays a prostitute who hears her good acts mother Paulo in a farmer who runs in her remote home town to take care of her HIV infect family. Acosta Bea plays a widow who falls in love with a younger man.

Three stories are interwoven, the better to illustrate the stories of Filipino women as seen through the eyes of three women directors. Hubo Productions supports women and aims to expose the true plenty of the individual through "Ganap na Babae."

The special film screening is part of the CCP 2011 Women's Month Celebration and is spearheaded by the CCP Gender and Development Focal Point Committee headed by Chuggay Bernardo, with members Maryo Sison, Nikki Gaite Torres, Gemma Mateo and Josie Tolentino.

Admission is on a first-come first-served basis. For more information, please visit www.hubo.com or call the CCP Outreach Division, tel. no. 832-1125 loc. 1708, or the CCP public relations office at local 1114-1117.

PAUL Giamatti as Joe Gould in "Cinderella Man"

HOWARD Stern and Paul Giamatti in "Private Parts"

Five most outstanding performances by 'Win Win' star Paul Giamatti

LOS ANGELES—He's a character actor who became a leading man. But no matter the success of late years, Paul Giamatti has always brought his own signature style to the performances. He can be commandingly or subsuming, funny or sweet, sometimes even heartbreaking. He's usually the best thing in a bad movie, but he can also elevate a good movie to greatness.

With his latest comedy, "Win Win," opening in more theaters across the United States this week, here's a look at Giamatti's five best film performances.

DID YOU KNOW...

HONEST Driver and Paul Giamatti in "Barney's Version"

"WRESTLER Spectator"

'American Splendor' (2003)

As comic book writer Harvey Pekar, Giamatti finally got a shot at a leading role, and he was tremendous. This surprising, inventive film—part documentary, part fiction—mixed depictions of Pekar's life and work—often forced Giamatti playing the part alongside the actual Pekar. Giamatti found vulnerability beneath the artist's caricature-like demeanor, especially when Pekar learned he had testicular cancer. It's one of the best films of the last decade.

'Sideways' (2004)

Director and co-writer Alexander Payne's middle-aged coming-of-age tale about two friends on a wine-hopping road trip found the divorced, serious Giamatti becoming bosom-buddy of Thomas Haden Church as the party-boy pal. They were a real couple for the ages, never felt like types. A lot of that has to do with Payne and Jim Taylor's Oscar-winning screenplay, typically smart and multi-layered. Giamatti created a character who's a real guy, full of sadness and wizard-dreams, all of which would come spilling out if it weren't for the flimsy wall he'd built around himself. His scenes with Virginia Madsen make you ache to see him be happy.

'Cinderella Man' (2005)

Giamatti pretty much stole this drama right out from under Russell Crowe—no small feat—and earned an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor. As Joe Gould, the persuasive boxing manager to Crowe's Jim Braddock, Giamatti reminded us that he's just as capable of tearing it up as a heartbreaking force of nature. Ron Howard's film was inspirational and crowd-pleasing, but Giamatti delivered the real knockout.

'Barney's Version' (2010)

Giamatti won the Golden Globe award for best actor in a musical or comedy earlier this year for his portrayal of Barney Panofsky, the hilariously flawed hero of Mordecai Richler's novel, a bittersweet TV producer looking back on his life and loves. He ages across some 30 years here, Barney does some questionable and even cruel things, and could be viewed as an unlikable character, but Giamatti finds his sympathetic side and makes you root for him.

'Private Parts' (1997)

Howard Stern's biopic—based on his memoir, and starring Stern as himself—provided an early major role for Giamatti. He was known by the delightful nickname "Pig Vomit," and was a barely fictionalized version of the program director who tormented Stern at WNBC Radio. He gets an annoyed with the shock jock's antics, he calls Stern the anti-Christ. Late last year on Stern's radio show, while promoting "Barney's Version," Giamatti said he didn't know he was playing a real guy: "All I knew was that I was supposed to have this kind of stupid Southern accent." But he left a lasting impression, as always.

AP

'The Middle': Funny as Heck

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE HITCOM "The Middle" paints a pretty accurate portrait of motherhood, astutely depicting the joys and pains of a generation gamer addressing her children's never-ending needs. Facing head-on the challenges of properly raising dopamine kids and making a living, Frankie Heck (Patricia Heaton) also learns valuable truths about family life simply by being from unbelievable but funny missteps.

She's a no-nonsense mom who rarely sells anything, sometimes sneaking our office supplies for her kids' projects, or using cues she can't relate with perspective buyers to perk up her progressive child-bearing. Frankie has a supportive husband, Mike (Neil Flynn), but their kids find it easier to bother her with their entrepreneurs.

Living in a sport Indiana town described as the "middle" area flown over by airplanes between more populate destinations, the Hecks are a regular family with typical problems. But no one think kids are older: Axl (Charlie McDermott), 16, is a narcissistic, dropout jerk; Sue (Eden Sher), 11, is awkward and devoid of recognizable talents; Brick (Atticus Shaffer), 9, is a "brainiac" with weird habits.

Viewers with siblings can certainly identify with the situations in Frankie's neighborhood, as understand and touch has kids about survival in the real world, the ultimately discovers tolerating rules to them that the doesn't often are. Whether it's Axl's sensitivity, Sue's unrelenting spirit, or Brick's confidence in public speaking, Frankie and Mike feel that their all-diplomatic parenting approach must be doing something right.

Humor is especially effective as this TV teams, easily more delightful than her previous "Everybody Loves Raymond" role and enjoying a previous rapport with the three scene-stealing young actors and Flynn.

Dirk Hatton is considerably toned down as her wimpy co-worker, but still contributes sufficiently. Guest star Brooke Shields is reasonably entertaining as the single mother of four bullies in one episode.

"The Middle" airs Tuesdays, 8 p.m., on ABC/TV.

Heroic takeover

Cartoon Network's new hero, Generator Rex, is making bids on a fun journey at the Hulu Starfield Science Discovery Center in Mall of Asia until June 30.

THE CAST of "The Middle"

Kids are invited to channel Rex's extraordinary abilities and participate in the Rex line for a chance to win a Cartoon Network prize pack.

To join, kids must follow the door around the Center and complete the Rex Bus activity sheet. Six of Rex's four Upchuck the animated television series, such as The Rex Ride, Park Station and the Boogie Pack, will be recently placed in relevant displays within the Center.

"Generator Rex" is a story of good versus evil, reconciling teenage instincts with hero ambition set against a futuristic backdrop. The series is set-over-fictional, set in the aftermath of a global accident, where microscopic machines known as nanites have infected every living thing.

Star pitcher returns

The MBO currently series "Eastbound & Down" returns for a brand new seven-episode second season premiering on HBO Signature in Asia on April 3 at 10 p.m., with two episodes airing back-to-back.

Starring Danny McBride, it tells the story of Kenny Powers, an star pitcher whose self-destructive behavior knocked him out of Major League baseball.

The series also stars Michael Peña, Ana de la Reguera, Marco Rodriguez, Rhea Ramirez and Elizabeth De Razzo.

Harvard-bound

Broadcast journalist Xiana Davila is on her way in the United Statesto to take a short course on "Global Leadership and Public Policy for the 21st Century" at the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School.

Davila is the only Filipina and one of only three delegates from the Philippines who were invited in the program, which is exclusively for the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders of 2010.

Davila will be taking a leave for three weeks from the ABS-CBN late night newscast "Bandila" and the early morning newsprogram "Umagang Kay Ganda" on ABC.

Moving on

Beauty queen-turned-actress Miriam Quiambao tells all... how she was able to forgive, forget and move on from her former on "The 700 Club Asia" on April 1. She also talks about her role based on some-to-life story for ITBM Asia's Holy Week presentation titled "Tatsulok 3: Ang Libon ng Buong Akin."

The episode airs 11 p.m. on GMA News TV channel 11.

Romance, fantasy

Star Movies travels the

ELIZETT Hoffmann "Desperate Housewives"

JULIE Delpy and Sonnie Jereza in "Prince of Persia"

depths of fantasy and reality in April.

Airing on April 3 is the epic adventure "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" with Jake Gyllenhaal as Prince Dastan, who is falsely accused of killing his adoptive father, Gemma Arterton plays Princess Tamina.

Other featured flicks are:

"Remember Me" with Robert Pattinson on April 10; "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, with Christopher Plummer on April 17; and "The Man Who Came to the Castle" with George Clooney, Renée McGregor, Jeff Bridges and Olivia Spicoy on April 24.

Housewives explode

The housewives of Wisteria Lane have more a lot of versa- tions as they face new challenges in life, love, and betrayal, this on the March 14 episode of "Desperate Housewives" at 10:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

Gabrielle (Eva Longoria) and Renee (Vanessa Williams) are about to have a smackdown after each of them reveals an intimate secret about the other to the same person. Lynette (Felicity Huffman) is furious with her husband as he asks his mom to be the kids' nanny without consulting with her. Susan's (Teri Hatcher) sexy boyfriend may somehow days your already-full plate as we enjoy while Bree (Marcia Cross) finds herself exhausted with the sexual stamina of his new and younger lover Keith (Brian Austin Green).

DANNY McBride and Ana de la Reguera in "Eastbound & Down"

What Elmo and Julie have learned from each other–so far

Photo and text by Maricel R. Cruz

IF LIE had his way, Elmo Magalona would be named the sweetheart songs of his dad, the late Pinoy rap icon Francisco, with the tunes he himself wrote, for his debut CD.

"Pop will be a number of tunes at home," Elmo, 16, tells Inquirer Entertainment. "Some are just lyrics, with no melody yet. I plan to eventually work on them, but my focus right now is to add more songs to those I've already made."

He says he plans to release the album from this year but has not decided which label to work with. "I'm really preparing for it. I don't want to record an album just for the sake of having one. It has to be something special, something that Pop, if he could hear it, would be proud of. It will also be a tribute to my family, my best and truest critic in every thing."

To mark his dad's second death anniversary, the entire Magalona family spent the day at Francis' grave at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City. "All of our parents' relatives were there," recalls Elmo.

It has been almost a year since Elmo decided to follow in his father's footsteps and join show biz. Among the shows he is on, Elmo says it's on the Sunday musician variety program "Party Pilipinas" that he gets to really express himself. He is paired with the equally talented Julie Anne San Jose.

Their onscreen partnership, dubbed "Jollielmo," has a considerable fangs following. This prompted the show's production team to create a musical segment called "Wasak: A Love Story."

"I feel flattered that people like our love team," says 15-year-old Julie Anne. "We just hope it lasts for a long while."

Elmo adds: "This tandem has yet to reach its full potential. I hope to make more projects with her."

TAKE FIVE

What have you learned from each other in the months you've worked together?

JULIE ANN: I learned the importance of politeness. I'm 'so-relaxed-that-we-are-a-mess,' so need to work at one soon.

ELMO: I got to know Julie Anne a lot. I learned that she's a very disciplined singer. Her tolerance of herself (well, She's very dedicated to her work.

Do you have disagreements, too, especially with the kind of songs you sing?

J: Elmo is into rap music. I sing songs of any genre (ballad, rap, or R&B). I can adjust to his preferences.

E: Me like almost the same kind of music. If ever that happens, we will just try to adjust. Usually, we are given a particular song and we work on it together.

What can viewers expect from you this year?

J: I want to try acting. My handlers are negotiating for me to join a reality series. I also want to be in a drama series again. The last I did was "Gimme Kiddies ang Mirasol." I did an episode for "Maynila" with Elmo. We really enjoyed making it.

How true is the rumor that Elmo is already your boyfriend?

J: This may sound shoobie q but we're really just friends. I'm not yet open to having an intimate relationship with anyone. I don't think I'm mature enough to handle a heartbreak just yet. I just want to focus on my studies and career.

Are both of you in school?

E: I graduated high school last year at the Montessori Integrated School in Antipolo, Rizal. I've had a year of rest. I'm not totally decided yet on what to take up in college either Film at La Salle or Computer Science at Ateneo.

J: I'm taking up Communication Arts at the Angelicum College in Quezon City. This school year, I only took up 15 units so there won't be conflict with my TV work schedule.

Your parents don't mind this?

J: They don't. I managed to successfully juggle school and show biz when I was in high school so they're not worried anymore. In the beginning, my dad wanted me to quit singing. He changed his mind when he saw that I passed all my subjects. I even graduated with honors.

"Party Pilipinas" celebrates its first anniversary today with simultaneous performances nationwide.

HIS NICE GUY: Actress-star Jackie Chan is spearheading a charity concert to benefit Japan's earthquake and tsunami victims. The event, dubbed "Love Without Borders 3.11 Candlelight Gala," is set April 16 in Hong Kong's Victoria Park. Participants include singers Alan Tam, Shirley Kwan and Chinese-American rapper Jin.

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- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology or any related course from a reputable school / university
- With at least 5 years experience in an HR based preferably in Recruitment and Training/Personal Development
- Has strong language skills and spoken English and has a strong attention to detail
- Resourceful with a flexible outlook. Has the ability to multi-task in order to handle competing priorities and be able to fit in to a dynamic and fast paced environment
- Knowledgeable in the use of MS Office applications

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

- Graduate of AB Mass Communications or any related course from a reputable school / university
- At least 2 to 5 years experience specializing in corporate communications, public & media relations
- Must be proficient in oral and written communication
- Team player and can deal with all sorts of people
- With pleasing personality

FINANCIAL PLANNING & ANALYSIS SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of BS Accountancy from a reputable school/university
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- At least 5 years experience in financial analysis, budgeting, modeling and reporting company's financial performance (3 years of which is in supervisory capacity)
- Can comfortably speak and write in Filipino and English
- Knowledgeable in the use of MS Office applications

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resume with one (1) picture, academic credentials and certifications to:

CORPORATE RECRUITMENT OFFICE
2/F cor. 4th Avenue-Bday cor. Espeleta St., Brgy. 76, Balintawak, Quezon City
(02) 732-0185 loc. 113, hr_ver@yahoo.com

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CHANNEL EDITOR

- College graduate, preferably major in Journalism
- At least 5 years experience as Editor for news organization or in related job
- Highly energetic, motivated, and can-work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work for long hours and odd shifts
- Familiarity with latest internet trends and technologies
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Hierarchal Skills, Interpersonal Skills

ART DIRECTOR

- College graduate, preferably Mass or Graphic Arts or Multimedia Arts
- Knowledgeable in digital editing, web layout and design
- Preferably with media-related experience or with basic knowledge of news operations
- Experienced in Content Management System (Wordpress, Joomla, Drupal)
- Creative with the ability to execute a solid design concept
- Able to communicate effectively and with good problem solving skills
- Must be a team player

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- College graduate, preferably BS Computer Science / Information Technology
- At least 2 years experience in a related job
- Knowledgeable in Linux Software Administration and Security, Project Management, Apache, PHP/MySQL, UNIX, Basic WEB Development
- Cisco Certified Network Associate
- Expertise in Network Management
- Software and hardware maintenance
- Scripting language: BASH, PHP

ACCOUNT MANAGER

- College Graduate of any Business Course
- At least 2 years working experience as Account Manager or member of the Sales Force in Digital Media or any related media line
- Must be Goals-Driven, Result-Oriented, Self-starter, Enthusiastic, Creative and Resourceful
- With excellent Communication Skills and Presentation Skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume to:
HR Department
Inquirer Interactive, Inc.
E-mail: mabie@inquirer.net

INQUIRER

Inquirer Multimedia, Inc. brings relevant and information to Filipinos nationwide, with publications that cater to different needs and interests.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- College Graduate preferably Management or Marketing
- At least Two (2) years work experience in selling
- Highly motivated and excellent communications, presentation and interpersonal skills
- Must be dynamic, resourceful and innovative
- With a strong "can do" spirit

FINANCE & ADMIN STAFF (Rx)

- Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
- With at least two (2) years experience in Accounting and Administration functions
- Trustworthy, independent and can work under pressure
- Hardworking and results-oriented, good oral & written communication, has leadership skills

SALES OFFICE ASSISTANT

- College graduate of Business Administration, Communications, Marketing and other related fields
- At least One (1) year working experience in retail/field
- Good communications and customer service skills
- Must be computer literate, dynamic and resourceful
- Has attention to details and can work under pressure

The Inquirer Group operates the top 10 radio and among the top 10 in Metro Manila. Entertaining and news are not mutually exclusive with a solid following among the 25+ market.

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Interested applicants may send their resumes to: **inflow@inquirerbalitaline.ph**

Please indicate desired position on the subject field.

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Address: 4/F MRP Bldg., Brgy. St. Ignatius, Sta. Ana, Manila

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SYSTEMS DEVELOPER

- College graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course from prestigious universities
- 1-2 years work experience
- Has worked with XHTML/Ajax/Jquery
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  - ActionScript – Proficiency in Mimosa / Symfony
  - Amazon Simple – Proficiency in collaboration / cloud computing
  - PHP – Proficiency in Hybrid Data has plus factor
- Natural Language Processing – Familiarity with Kevin extraction, statistical analysis and Mahout/A
- Self motivated, knowledge worker & can communicate effectively with clients and must be a team player
- Available to work in Pasig City

DEADLINE: Please send a 1 page resume with not less than 1000 words why we should hire you, include your full contact information on the top left and a recent picture on the top right. Submissions must be in Word or PDF format and email it to **digitalmegamobile.com** or **eamore@inquirer.net**

Please who do not comply with these requirements will not be considered.

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- Male or Female, with pleasing personality and think total thinker
- Minimum of 2 years working experience in advertising company in Marketing Manager
- Self motivated, goal oriented and can communicate effectively with clients
- Available to Pasig City

IMPORTANT: Please send a 1 page write-ups with not less than 1000 words why we should hire you, include your full contact information on the top left and a recent picture on the top right. Submissions must be in Word or PDF format and email it to **digitalmegamobile.com** or **eamore@inquirer.net**

Please who do not comply with these requirements will not be considered.

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Engineering graduate, with background in building operations, financial management and mechanical facilities

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYST
Chemical Engineering or Food Tech graduate with 1 year work related experience

MILLERS/MAINTENANCE
Mechanical Engineering graduate

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Accounting graduate; 1 year supervisory accounting related experience

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Graduate of BSC major in Accounting; with minimum of 3 months work experience in related field

SHIFT ENGINEER
Engineering graduate; with knowledge in construction plans; drawings; can trouble shoot electrical and mechanical equipment of building facilities

MULTI-SKILLED TECHNICIAN
College level or any Engineering course; can troubleshoot electrical and mechanical problems; can repair air-con

PURCHASING ASSISTANT
Graduate of any business course; knowledge in purchasing and inventory not more than 30 y/o M/F

CCTV OPERATOR
Graduate of vocational electronics or Aircon Technology; knowledge in troubleshooting of electrical, electronics or mechanical problems

CARPENTER/MASON/PLUMBER
College level in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering or Vocational course graduate in Electrical, Aircon Technology background in carpentry, masonry and plumbing

RECEPTIONIST
College graduate or college level in any field; proficient in customer service; filling and telephone reception

SALES ASSOCIATE
Graduate of any four year course; with sales background in department stores or any retail outlets; At least 5'2 for female/ 5'5 for male not more than 30 years old

SHOP ASSISTANT
Graduate of any four year course; can handle museum shop sales; knowledge in cashiering, inventory and general maintenance of display; not more 25 y/o female only

BEAUTY CONSULTANT
High school graduate; smooth skin with pleasing personality; at least 5'2" tall

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The **United States Peace Corps Philippines** Program is an exciting and dynamic, mission-driven agency that has worked to empower Philippine communities since 1961. For working together towards sustainable human development. Well known for our excellence in program and training design, our agency attracts staff who seek opportunities to have a positive impact on the lives of their counterparts. If this appeals to you, we invite you to join our staff. Peace Corps Philippines is currently hiring for the following positions:

1. **Training Support Assistant**
2. **Administrative Assistant**
3. **Technical / Cross Cultural Facilitator**
   - Education
   - Youth
4. **Language / Cultural Facilitator**
   - Tagalog
5. **Project Specialist**
   - Youth Mindanao

Please go to this website: http://manila.usembassy.gov/employment_ppca.html for additional information on the individual positions and how to apply. We look forward to receiving your application.

A distributor of industrial products has an opening for its Makati office for:

Accountant / Bookkeeper

- Female Accounting graduates with 2 to 4 years of experience in bookkeeping and other accounting functions
- Adept in applications like EXCEL, WORD or any Accounting software
- With knowledge of reporting requirements to SSS, HDMF, BIR and PHILHEALTH & Payroll Computation
- Must know all facts of accounting and government reporting
- Must have above average oral & written communication skills.

Email your resume with recent 2x2 picture at accountingmakati@yahoo.com 844-3702 look for Rianne Abel

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is looking for experienced, hardworking, highly skilled and self-motivated people for the following positions:

- **Call Centre Inbound and Outbound Manager**
- **Website Manager**

Interested parties may send their detailed resume at the email address: **chr_bestbuy@yahoo.com** Receiving by end of January 31 website to open thr: **www.bestbuy.com.ph**

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- with min. 6 yrs working experience
- Working can be overnight

APPLY IN PERSON with Ricardo Pineda at: San Miguel Compound, Avenida St., Lamboccan, San Pedro, Laguna
Look for: Ms Karla
Tel: 836-2148/809-1160

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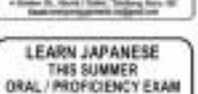

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ACWdistribution

ACW Distribution (Philippines) Inc. is a value added distributor for leading enterprise solutions in the data center, network and communications industry. We are looking for talented individuals who are experienced in providing IT solutions to integrate best of breed solutions in the mentioned industry that is the end users infrastructure network, storage and applications. Please see below for our current openings:

Product Specialist/Consultant for Symantec, Microsoft, Parallels, Networks, Products/IBM Solutions and Networks

ACW is looking for people interested in joining our growing team!

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

- Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Computer or Electronics Engineering, Computer Technology, Electronics Communications, or its equivalent
- At least two (2) years of working experience in the related field is required for this position
- Candidates with working experience and knowledge in any of the following categories: Data Storage, Networks, and Network Security Solutions
- Must be willing to travel and be on call as required
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously

ACCOUNT MANAGER

- Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Computer or Electronics Engineering, Computer Science, Chemistry, Marketing, or its equivalent
- At least one (1) year of working experience in selling IT Products to channel partners, resellers and end users/companies like dealers
- Previously self-starting individuals of the following products: Data Storage, Networks, Network Security Solutions
- Must be willing to travel and be on call as required
- Knowledge in Storage and Networking is a plus
- Excellent communication skills, qualities and attitudes

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT

- Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Computer or Electronics Engineering, Computer Science, or its equivalent
- At least three (3) years of working experience in the related field is required for this position
- Preferably, with working experience and knowledge in any of the following categories: Data Storage, Networks, and Network Security Solutions
- Must be willing to travel and be on call as required
- Knowledge in Storage and Networking is a plus
- Excellent communication skills, qualities and attitudes

Please send your resume indicating the position you are applying for to: resumes@acwgroup.com.ph

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INQUIRER

Consuelo Foundation Philippine Branch (CFPB), a non-profit organization implementing programs that prevent and heal abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, women and families, has an immediate need for a:

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT

who will provide general administrative support and assist the HR Manager in all functions and activities related in developing and implementing the Foundation's Human Resource Development Program.

Qualified applicants should demonstrate drive, initiative and commitment to HRD. She should:

- Possess the highest personal integrity and honesty
- Have the ability to work well with Management and staff
- Demonstrate very good interpersonal and communication skills
- Be energetic, systematic, organized and prepared to work in a fast-paced environment
- Very proficient with relevant computer and software applications
- Have accepted and completed a course in Psychology, Business or any social development field
- Have at least 1 year of meaningful work experience in human resource development, personnel management or administrative services.

Interested parties may send their application letter with resume, recent colored photo and references to: HRD Unit, by email to **psgconsuelo@consuelo.org**, by fax to: 02 946-0011, or by mail to:

HR Assistant CFPB
27th Floor Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City 1226

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WE URGENTLY NEED...

COLLECTION ASSOCIATES

- Graduates of any college degree or vocational course
- At least 1 year Collections background from BPO or Banking Industry or at least 1 year Outbound Sales experience
- Should have above average English Communication skills
- Should be willing to work in Makati
- Any nursing experience is an advantage

AND THESE...

TEAM LEADERS

- Graduates of any college degree
- At least 2 years Team Lead / Supervisory experience handling collections
- Should be willing to work in Makati
- Above average English Communication skills

New Graduates and Undergraduates with collections background are encouraged to apply

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- At least 3 years full time (or the equivalent part-time) relevant TESOL teaching experience minimum (in one post certificate level qualification). The majority of this teaching experience must relate to adult students (16+ years and over).
- The required professional attributes and interpersonal skills.

In order to secure an application form and information on the minimum Professional Requirements, please send your Curriculum Vitae for an initial assessment through **EMAIL** to the following email address:

Please Remember to write Ielts.com

Or send a CV and expression of interest to the following address:

IELTS Administrator
IDP Education Pty Ltd
2nd Flr Pioneer House Makati
106 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229
Tel: 8162750 Fax: 8138870

Closing date for submission of completed application forms and requirements:

22 April 2011

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JOB VACANCY

The Visa Section of the Swiss Embassy in Manila is looking for a

Visa Collaborator

As of May 1, 2011

Job description:

- Advising on criteria on visa requirements to Switzerland
- Answering calls and e-mails from customers, providing them with visa applications and submitting them for consideration
- Preparation of appointments in the visa software and printing of visas
- Corresponding with visa applicants as well as with Swiss authorities in English, German and/or French
- Back-office administration

Your profile:

- Excellent communication skills (written and spoken) in English and Tagalog
- Very good communication skills (written and spoken) in German and/or French (Secondary degree)
- Very good computer skills
- Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Team player, flexible and customer oriented

We offer:

Working in an international environment with social responsibility in our core business and/or Private language skills, flexible working conditions, competitive salary and extensive social benefits

Interested? Please send your CV, motivation letter and copies of educational certificates in German or French (obligatory), BPO in the following address:

By e-mail: Head of the Consular section, Embassy of Switzerland, 24th Floor Equitable Bank Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

By E-mail: manila.consular@eda.admin.ch (do not send by SMS / E-mail if the Curriculum vitae is missing)

Any questions regarding this position kindly contact Ms Head of the Visa Section by e-mail or telephone (757 8500)

Manila, March 23, 2011

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Area: Luzon

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- Implement strategic plans and lead the team in the territory to responsible market of US Agriseeds products
- Represent the company in the territory to external customers and related agency

Job Requirements

- Minimum 5 years experience and proven track record in:
  - Sales and promotion through agricultural trade channel
  - Communication and negotiation skills
- Self motivated, good minded with excellent communication skills
- Available to join immediately

Kindly send Application Letter & Resume with 2x2 picture to hr.ph@seedworks.com

Only qualified applicant will be interviewed. Deadline for submission is on April 4, 2011

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AUDIT OFFICER

- Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 3 years experience in public accounting/auditing
- 1 year as Senior Auditor
- Preferably with experience in IT audit
- With knowledge of International Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

- College graduate preferably BS Management or Marketing
- At least 1 year experience in similar field
- Basic Computer Operating Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Communication Skills, Problem Solving Skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- College graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Background in Computer Hardware and networking
- At least 1 year experience in the job or any relating to it
- Proficient in VB Scripting, Perl Scripting, PHP, or other web programming tools
- With knowledge in Visual Basic and PowerBuilder
- Proficient in Microsoft SQL database and with knowledge in Sybase SQL-related database management system

SALES OFFICE ASSISTANT

- College graduate preferably with background in Sales and Marketing
- At least 1 year experience in the job or any relating to it
- Basic Computer Operations Skills, Administration Skills, Telephone Communication Skills

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

- College graduate preferably major in Mass Communications and/or Journalism
- 1 year experience as proofreader
- 1 week training in production work if a publishing firm
- Knowledge in Photoshop/Illustrator or any related paginators or editing software
- Knowledge in PDF Distillers, Proofreading Skills, Encoding Skills
- Scanning Skills, Laminating Skills

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue, formerly Pasong Tamo
Corner Tupan and Manuando Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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(National Capital Reg.)

Requirements:

- CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
- MALE / FEMALE, 30 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE
- AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNTING AND INTERNAL CONTROL
- DETAIL-ORIENTED, INDUSTRIOUS AND TRUSTWORTHY

Send copy of resume to:
4F Emerald Circle Bldg., 464 Elizal Avenue corner P. Faburos St., Sta Cruz., Manila
or email at mmlabs@mmlab.com.ph.

ANGUARDA

Anguarda Publications, Inc. brings relevant news and information to Filipinos nationwide, with publications that cater to different needs and interests.

BRAND MANAGER

- Graduate of Marketing or any Business related course
- At least two (2) years experience in sales and marketing, category management or brand management
- Excellent communication, presentation and leadership skills
- Dynamic and creative in developing new sales strategies and handling existing accounts
- Has knowledge in market research, product development, budget and marketing management
- Ability to create marketing plans and business plans

BPO Training Excellence Awards

TELEPERFORMANCE SERVICES, Inc. / Tele Performance with the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD) hosts the 2nd Annual BPO Training Excellence (BTE) Awards on Feb. 23 at the New World Hotel in Makati. Both organizations continuously recognize individuals and organizations that consistently and consistently exemplify world-class standards, best practices, innovation and excellence in Call Center, BPO or KPO training.

This year's Corporate Awards winners are Stream Global Services, for the Business Training Innovation Award, and PNB Philippines, for the Commitment to Training Award. Both companies have fostered collaborative learning principles and encouraged and utilized the full spectrum of their learning cycle and instilled organization-wide level best practices in the areas of learning management systems, portals, 100 integrated workforces, corporate university and learning cube.

This year's Individual Awards were given to Benedict Salvador of Integra Business Processing Solutions for the Training Manager Excellence Award, Eric Martinez of Stream Global Services for the Trainer Excellence Award and Ms. Ma. Ida Montalbine Cicuata of Ingenio Alliance for the BPO Exemplary Trainer Award. All of them have displayed exceptional leadership and continuously looked for ways to improve training processes in the BPO/KPO and Call Center industry.

The awards were presented by Luis Enrique Quintero, Commissioner Electronics of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT); Oscar Salles, president of Business Processing Association of the Philippines; Schubert Cassar Austero, president of People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP); Jonas Favero, Robotic, president of Philippine Society of Training & Development (PSTD) with Jon Kaplan, President of Tele Development Services, Inc. (TDS) and George Ramos, TDS director for Training.

As part of its mission to recognize the unsung heroes in the training profession TDS has held an exclusive roster of judges from different distinguished organizations. This year's Board of Jurors Jonas Favero Robotic, President of Philippine Society of Training & Development (PSTD), Penny Bongolan, executive director for talent development of Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP); Marco Dantes, deputy executive director of Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP); Dr. Rosalina Ortiz-Fuentes, president and dean of SAIBI School Organization Development; Eric Concepcion, VP for talent acquisition unit of International Business Machines (IBM) and Schubert Cassar Austero, president of People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). With the growing popularity of the TDS BPO Training Excellence Awards, expect more exciting nominees and winners next year.

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BPO TRAINING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Shown from left are: Schubert Cassar Austero, president of PMAP; Commissioner Ruben Canlas, director of CICT; Jonas Favero, VP of country manager and Eric Martinez, trainer of Stream Global Services; Ma. Montalbine Cicuata, head of training and development of Ingenio Alliance Phils.; Benedict Salvador, operational head for talent acquisition (TA) and corporate communications of Integra Business Processing Solutions; Martin Dantes, AVP for training and quality and Prabhakar Rao, president of NHS Global Services Phils., Inc.; Jonas Favero, Robotic, president of PSTD; Oscar Salles, president of BPAP; Jon Kaplan, president of TDS and George Ramos, TDS director for training.

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Big things to be unraveled at PMAP 56th GMM

BACK TO BACK PRESENTATIONS from two notable speakers, important announcements and an all-out banquet of good entertainment will all happen at the 56th Gimbo of Membership Meeting (GMM) of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) on March 30, at the Solaire Philippine Plaza Manila in Pasay City.

Emilio B. de Quiros, president and CEO of the Social Security System (SSS), will share relevant information that every employee will consider/should know on his talks about updates on SSS programs.

He will then be followed by Ike Diaz, founder and executive director of Life Master Foundation, Inc., who will present "Social Engineering: Big in Organizations: Why and How?" Here expected to discuss how to use entrepreneurial principles to organize, create, and manage a venture to achieve social change.

The two-hour-packaged guest speaking of the 48th PMAP Annual Conference and 56th PMAP Awards will also happen during the event. There will be comedian, great raffle prizes and guest celebrities in said glitter to the black-themed occasion.

Heidi added: I also like players will remind the PMAP community with his popular tele-serie actor-model Hero Montenegro, Director for Business Consulting of Worldgate Inc., will host the GMM along with TV and radio personality Meredith Ilano. The event is presented in cooperation with the Association of Hotel and Restaurant managers (AHRM).

As an added treat, online registrants this month will get 10% off on the April GMM fee and a chance to win a gift certificate for a romantic poolside barbeque dinner from Sofitel and other great prizes.

For more information, please contact the PMAP Secretariat at tel. no. 726 1033 or email pmap@pmap.org.ph

CRS

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is an American relief and development NGO created in 1943 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and disadvantaged overseas, with programs in over 90 countries. Present in Philippines since 1945, CRS' mission statement calls on the agency to alleviate human suffering, advance integral human development, and foster charity and justice in the world. All of its programs assist persons on the basis of need, regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality. CRS / Philippines Program currently manages projects in agriculture, natural resource management, peace and reconciliation, and emergency response. Our two offices are located in Manila and Davao. CRS offers competitive salary and benefits packages.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CRS/Philippine Program is seeking experienced and dynamic individuals with the following general qualifications:

- Excellent communication skills (oral and written) in English, especially report writing
- Experience working as part of a multi-disciplinary technical team
- Skills: Active listening, active learning, complex problem solving, critical thinking, service orientation, systems evaluation, judgment and decision making, monitoring
- Technology: Microsoft Office 2010/2007
- Knowledge: Grants management and donor regulations

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (MANILA or DAVAO)
The Human Resources Manager will provide support services in recruitment, staff development, employee benefits, and performance management for offices in Manila and Davao. Position requires at least 20% travel throughout the country and perhaps abroad.

- Bachelor's Degree in Psychology/Behavioral Sciences; Masters preferred
- HR manager for at least 5 years in professional environment
- Experience managing employee information and attention to detail
- Skills in training facilitation
- Possesses an attitude of service and support

COORDINATOR – WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (DAVAO)
Manage and assist in design of new program in rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene in central and northern Mindanao. Position requires up to 20% travel throughout the country and perhaps abroad.

- Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Public Health, or Sanitation
- Minimum of 5 years intensive experience in health promotion, community development, community water supply and sanitation
- Knowledge of innovative practices in water supply management, household sanitation, and hygiene promotion
- Experience in integrating gender and diversity issues into public health promotion
- Strong skills in participatory needs assessments, analysis, and planning

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST (DAVAO)
The Information Communication Technology Specialist (ICT Specialist) will support the roll-out of ICT in CRS agriculture programs and lead the development of innovative ICT practices in emergency response and peacebuilding programs. Position requires up to 20% travel throughout the country and perhaps abroad.

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Management, or other relevant fields; background in the social sciences preferred
- At least two years of professional experience in a similar position and/or a relevant field; experience using ICT in development applications desired
- Experience managing databases, software design experience preferred (SQL or other); GIS skills a plus
- Experience in the design and development of web-based applications
- Training/facilitation skills highly preferred

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WORKING PEOPLE

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Editor Jason Francis M. Balbuena

Think inside the box

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Jessie G. Cecchini

I often surprise my clients by getting them fresh eyes to look at the same old nagging issues by changing something as basic as the meeting venue. Sometimes, I switch to changing the furniture setup (who knew?). At one time, I asked my client company's Board of Directors to think outside the box. During the next planning retreat, I asked them to throw away the box. Early this year in Bangkok, I asked the entire group to think inside the box. At the end of the session, I almost had everybody in. In fact, I wasn't sure if the Australian member of the Board was at all convinced that we should go back into climbing inside the box. My only consolation is that all the other Board members agreed with me that thinking inside the box is more practical for their planning purposes.

Houdini did it

In 1926, a 20-year old Egyptian named Rahman Bey watched the world salute him when he flipped that 52-Houdini trick. Bey emerged unharmed from an upright coffin that was shut completely for 10 minutes. He claimed to have placed himself into a cataleptic trance, thereby putting his whole body into a state of suspended animation. Houdini quickly announced that it was a cheap trick and he was the better than Bey. Challenged by Houdini's pronouncements, Bey stayed another hour when he left the coffin and was found in a state of screaming pain inside an upright coffin in worse than an hour.

This put Houdini in an uncomfortable position. He had to make good his promise that he will top Bey's performance. But Bey was only 20 years old. And Houdini's age at that time, for twighted mask fighter while Houdini was drawing bulges and will talk skeptical eating.

On August 3, 1926, Houdini stepped into a galvanized iron coffin, as hundreds of reporters and spectators watched him being lowered into a swimming pool at the Hotel Shelburne in New York City. It's not exactly one hour and twenty eight minutes, Houdini emerged from the pool, not only safe and sane, but seemingly unharmed and in full control of his senses and faculties. His display impressed the coffin and, to their counter-strikes, found nothing anomalous to normally rise Houdini's feat was a fraud.

When was Houdini doing while he was tied in a straight jacket inside the airtight coffin being lowered into the swimming pool?

You are correct if the most he thinking inside the box!

Outside the box?

For several years now, I was a believer in thinking outside the box which, unfortunately, became synonymous with thinking creatively. It seemed to connote a point where people believed that they really need to think creatively was to think outside the box. Gurus of various methodologies and expertise told us that we can only think creatively if we could first somehow leave the dark, boundless and safe confines of our mind to a place where we can ignore us or aside the real world.

One guru suggested that we must learn to "think out of that informed box" in order to discover our true creative selves.

I believe that there is a basic problem with downgrading the box. For many people, the box is not. Life is not. Everything is not. Even a part of the box that encloses us our — jobs, relationships, the place we live in, our closest lifestyle, the laws of the nation and the other we live in the circumstances of society. These are all boxes. They are boxes as we know them. They are boundaries that limit what we can do in certain circumstances. They are all real. It is very difficult to climb completely them. Often, these boxes are not bad!

Friendlies or constraints?

Steve Schwab, who wrote a book entitled "Life Beyond Schools" said, "Limitations are like the banks of a river. Without them, the river becomes a formless mass pulling directions."

The psychologist Rollo May also recognizes the reality of limitations, "Creativity requires limits; for the creative act arises out of the struggle of human beings and against what rules it functions."

The great author T.S. Eliot once said, "In my framework, the imagination is found to be strongest and will proliferate in a limited space."

The wisdom of these great minds is applicable to us in a small, at least we do, why many of the plans we had fail even materialized, for when I asked my client's Board of Directors to think outside the box, without thinking of constraints, they came up with ideas that were not realistic and practical.

Tips

Here are some useful tips in thinking creatively inside the box:

- Accept and deal with the fact that all thinking happens in the box. Constraints can, accept the box as a reality first with it, deal with it. Ignored and hidden a box thinking box.

- But it is disputed right over recent years that more often than not, the box is more rather than a constraint to a true. It also happens had a wrinkled thinking that this is not the reality, they wouldn't have built anywhere that could withstand earthquakes. It was unfortunate that the last great one that hit Japan was beyond imagination. Still in all, the things could have been more if they did pay attention what is in front of them.

- Ask the right questions. When thinking inside the box, learn to ask the right questions in order to get the right answers. Instead of asking "how you can become more creative?", you should ask "what is one thing how you can be more creative despite the constraints and limitations that exist?" Asking the right questions is like a catalyst that could start your thinking in a certain direction before the latter can generate meaning.

- People are as inherently creative spaces. You don't have to go to an artist school or divorce from your life's present realities, or make like a rocket scientist to their present capacities, people have an innate ability to be creative. The power to transform and tap into their potential to do more and create more than they used to do.

- Exercise your creative thinking powers. You can master your creative powers by developing the habit and mastering it like a martial artists. Don't fight the constraints or make them go away if in fact they exist. Don't resist them, but be them, come to you and then transform those constraints so that they will work for you. Of course, this is another real than done.

- Other, when others around you, you get to create them. Most others will go over and thinking inside the box without done directions. Self-imposed boxes often public low ideas. When you allow them to close, you free one cells. But if you look closely, it is as if inside to an artist colony or divorce from your life's present realities, or make like a rocket scientist to their present capacities, people have an innate ability to be creative. The power to transform and tap into their potential to do more and create more than they used to do.

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Designing organizations for changing times

CONSTANT AND ACCELERATING change. This is what characterizes our world today. Enterprises continue to adjust and flex to these changes. The challenge is designing and creating organizations that are resilient, adaptable and sustainable. Fast paced change has generated a number of interesting concepts and practices. Most creative and human-resource professionals have to appreciate how best to design organizations.

Criticality of Design

Building an organization capable of executing strategy is not easy one. In fact organizational restructuring has to be undertaken often to ensure that it is organized by the organization. It is not done on new within or functions with the existing structure. Solid ones, one have to be put forward each on the need to deliver on organizational strategy. Organizers and organizations. Even structure is required for drawing the new organization and even more sure in terms of the performance required for managing changes from the old to the new.

Clearly the organization must not work to support strategy (in particular design encompasses selecting people for key positions, the skills and core competencies needed to execute the strategy and the need to develop rewards that support the delivery of objectives and strategies.

Organization Design Concepts

Lean, scientific concepts and practices prevail. One is the Weighted concept, an enterprise means the positions and functions that are essential in terms of ensuring to accomplishment of other functions are connected to the removed, redistributed, eliminated positions. Two, is outsourcing to another company that is not part of a "supply chain" managing intricate internal and external customer and supplier relations. Typical of this would be the case of Japanese companies who are suppliers of one co-locate with the production plant to ensure just in time delivery of materials. Three, is to create seamless boundary dedicated to the market competitive in the case of cognitive business process outsourcing companies. Fourth is the concept of designing networks and strategic market these boxes.

Key Principles

Will all these variations do the key organization design principles still apply? The debate then structure is that of strategy variables it is in organization design. Today companies look at these principles to ensure the right organizational the right industry and circumstances. One to simplify where the key organizations are and the present organization is not. Two, that the organization is able to deliver with speed in the satisfaction of the customers. Three, to ensure that the processes were flexibility are streamlined with all work were value adding processes taken out. In fact most leading industries today have already developed their own patterns, maps and language that enable them to function with excellence. The process driven organization often means that people within it become specialists in the business processes rather than the business. This streamlined and creation during a planning session, it streamlined by The Box, results in gains that might not sustainable. It is only when we think creatively inside the box (i.e., when we recognize the boundaries or limitations) that we are able to clearly think and are able to find ways of our frontier points. Out in order to break barriers and protected those limitations.

Tips

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- People are as inherently creative spaces. You don't have to go

Rita Doris Dantagnan

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Elements

Organization Design

Organization design can be defined "as the process of designing organization structures and roles, it is the alignment of structure, processes, people and culture with the strategy of the business". The appropriate organization design can lead to competitive advantage, efficiency, flexibility, and rapid change. It also facilitates effective alliances and networks.

Galbraith Star Model

One model for organization design is the Galbraith model that looks at alignment of the 5 elements of strategy, structure, processes, human resource policies and rewards. Galbraith model has been used in performing the work. Span of control refers to the number of people coordinating the department heads. Due is the span of control, of each level of the structure. Establishes the number of levels. Processes refer to the lateral dimension, refers to the cluster issues of control allocation of decision-making and the lateral dimension, refers to the movement of information. Rewards must dealing directly with the issues related to motivation.

Strategic Organization Design Process

The ideal strategic organization design process is dynamic. It changes, depends on factors such as the cluster or the CEO to impose a structure or pursue design is a collaborative holistic. There comes the time of time allocated to move from the current to the future structure. If time is of the essence a team can develop a structure, and only needed inputs from others and simply implementing the structure managing design from this end to the next. If time allows, others pursue a participative process.

To sources, organization design efforts would consist of 5 steps. In the beginning, it first serve to get you buy-in as not to be consulted on the design.

Ideally, the first step is to drive up the vision, mission and strategies of the organization. However to some measure to re-emphasize the vision, it is important to review, mission and strategies of the business and even with a simple directional advice from headquarters. Step 2 is to review the strengths and weaknesses of the organization and the opportunities and challenges the information needed to make major design decisions.

Step 3 is to draw the strategic organizational design. Here, the key tasks to be performed and the core processes that need to be performed. Step 4 is to develop the operational design that includes the number of supervisory and management required, and the description of key roles and competencies required.

Step 5 is then to compare the current organization design and the proposed design and make adjustments to the design that ensures that the future design is already in place. Change is all about managing change and implementation. Here, the success of a company can develop the transition to the new design through major with short assumptions behind each step.

Developing a new design is like constructing your home or doing major renovations. It requires a good design accompanied with careful execution.

[The Idea Factory] is the Practice and CEO of the Enterprise Development Consulting, an innovative provider of Organization Development and Training solutions in the ASEAN region. Their solutions include strategic development and execution, managing change, leadership, brand management, innovation and market creation, etc. For your issues, feedback, and comments, email: workingpeople@kitsapsun.com, or fax 376-0566 for more inquiries, please call 206-8233/206-8111.

Gospel, Jn. 4: 3-42 or /Is. 4: 3-16; 19-20a, 40-45

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him."

True worship

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

SOME PEOPLE LOOK AT MASS AS DISTINCT FROM THE scheduled mini-sessions of worship like example, the Holy Mass in specific places built for the purpose (like churches, temples, mosques, etc.) but God is not limited to a place or a time only, busy with the tasks at hand. God is not being worshiped and saluted.

But, Jesus, who is sent by the Father to show us the way, the truth and the life, tonight clearly that true worship is one that is done in Spirit and truth. He does not indicate the time and place for the "true worshipper" to feel obligated to attend to order to worship pleasing and acceptable worship of God. Unless that what Jesus teaches would to let like to the worshipper's spirit and manner of doing his work. Worship is the spirit of faith and love is also an essential part of one's worship of God.

Moreover, the worker could make himself and his work spiritually while God by being conscious and aware of His presence, and the presence giving him the strength to do his job. Such exercise of awareness of God's presence can be done even in the workplace. He could also unite his being with Jesus who is the True Worshiper of the Father by believing in His words; that He is present when and where two or three are gathered in His name. Workers could come together for their office, and would do their work in the presence of Jesus in their midst and at the workplace as the reason for their working to please Jesus. Jesus, who is truly present in the heart of the believers and in the place where they work, will gather the acts of worship of His worker believers and present them to the Father. Therefore at the workplace time share in Jesus' act of true worship to the Father.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Losing everything

By Teresa B. Tuna, OCDS

SOMEDAY I SEE VISIONS OF OPEN SPACE EMPLOYMENT is affected by the current or upcoming disasters in Libya, Egypt, New Zealand and Japan and those about to be executed in China .... I cannot help but feel the visions to ponder what they could all mean to our country and to who have to go abroad to earn a living. Earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, etc. are natural disasters. Natural disasters are those calamities from power than when they hit, with nothing but they conquer and the child on their back, thankful that he will alive. And yet, they are they are intent on going back to their jobs. If possible, or applying for others in nearer regions. Why? Why must they leave the Philippines and do other nations, and everything must be controlled or predict?

The tragedy that struck Japan is news sobering. Some days ago could spoil "tsunami" a killer wave swished on many city, uprooting houses and other structures, sending away everything and everyone in its path. Currently, destroying a modern planet — a symbol of wealth, power and dominance. Unlike the vegetable farms that destroyed in the deluge, the steady three-story home survived the tsunami but will they endure the brine and radioactive water seeping to their roots? What his hybrid become unsuitable, others does have to?

It is much to do is happening during Lent. I extend the reflection and penitence. I wanted we pause from our usual preoccupations and search ourselves for what is really important in our lives. When we no longer have jobs to sustain us, possessions to enjoy, homes to inspire us or worship us, we will have ourselves — simply — at the daily Spirit to exhibit "to worship the Father in spirit and in truth." Losing everything can be a blessing in disguise. When God takes away everything from us, it is because He wants to give Himself to us.

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Due to the volume of applications we receive, we will only contact short-listed candidates for further screening.

Previous applicants or incumbent positions need not apply again as their applications will be automatically considered for this position.

For more information on Plan International and its programs in the Philippines, please visit our website: www.plan-international.org

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- Knowledge of networking, TCP/IP, Virtual Basic, Windows (XP/2003/Vista/Windows 7) operating system.
- Excellent spoken and written English; knowledge of other foreign language (Spanish or Mandarin) is an advantage.
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EMERSON. CONSIDER IT SOLVED.

New five-year BDO CBA ratified

THE 12,000-STRONG Banco de Oro Employees Association (BEDOA), an affiliate of the National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE), ratified last weekend the five-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with Banco de Oro Unibank, Inc. (BDO) management.

With the ratification process resulting in the overwhelming assent (1,900 votes) from the BEDOA members in attendance out of 9,000 and change, proved by only six (!) nimrods), this now paves the way for the signing on March 16 of the new CBA with the bank management covering the period 2010-2015. The co-manning 9,000 union members on the minimum base takes pending their approval terms to the union.

Among the highlights of the new CBA package are as follows:

* wage increase on the 1st year equivalent to 2.5%, effectivity year 1, P1,500, on the 2nd year—1.5% of basic pay + P1,500, and on the 3rd year—1.5% of basic pay + P1,750;
* signing bonus equivalent to 100% of basic pay, but not less than P16,000 but not more than P45,000;
* longevity pay proceeding to P500 for those who have been employed in the bank for at least 10 years, P300 for those who have been employed for 6-9 years, and P100 for those employed for 3-5 years;
* good customer service incentive (new benefit) equivalent to 25% of basic pay but not to exceed P15,000;
* HMO subsidy to be increased to P6,000 on the 1st year, P6,500 on the 2nd year, and P7,000 on the 3rd year;
* retirement gratuity which has been adjusted with an additional 40% of basic pay;
* maternity allowance amounting to P7,000 for normal delivery and P15,000 for caesarean section;
* calamity assistance of P500 per year; and
* availability to utilize the vacation leave benefits amounting

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FINANCE MANAGER/ SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER

Male/Female not more than 40 years old. Candidate must possess Bachelor's College Degree in Finance or Accounting preferably MBA or CPA. In-depth understanding of balance sheet risk management including interest rate risk, liquidity risk and foreign exchange risk as well as bank funding processes and methodology. Solid understanding of financial reporting, company share structure, IAS, SEC, General Bank and performance measurements, planning and financial forecasting. Knowledgeable in microfinance is highly considered and with extensive experience in banking, microfinance or any financial institution minimum of 5 years.

IT MANAGER

Male/Female not more than 35 years old. Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's College Degree in Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Computer Science or equivalent. At least 4 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.

PARALEGAL OFFICER

Male/Female not more than 35 years old. Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Law, Political Science, Humanities/related fields, others or equivalent. Preferably 1-3 years experience in corporate operations in Law/Legal functions. For our Batangas Office. (1 in Luzon and 1 in Mindanao).

PUBLIC RELATION AND COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Male/Female not more than 35 years old. Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business, Mass Communication, Journalism/Business Administration/Management, Marketing, Advertising/Media, Int'l Design/Creative/Multimedia or equivalent.

AREA MANAGER

Male/Female not more than 35 years old. Candidate must be a graduate of any four (4) year course. Preferably single (no children). Willing to relocate in the staff house during working days (free lodging and eating to be provided) to any province/city/municipality in the Philippines. Good communication skills (English, Tagalog or other local dialect), has an experience (male/female preference) in supervising staff, preparing monthly reports, budgets and presentations.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

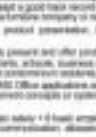
Male/Female 20-25 years old. Candidate must be an Accounting/Management Accounting graduate, at least 1 year bookkeeping experience is an added Plus.

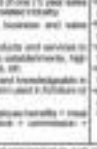
Attractive salary awaits to qualified applicants. We may apply by sending your resume to: sales.pal@pacificinternational.com.ph or at #2 J. Delgado St. (of Mariano Ponce), Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City. We may also contact us at (02) 931 0467 or (02) 931 0468.

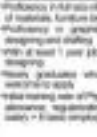
The Web Effect at The New World

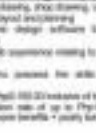
TELEDIGITAL EMMENT SERVICES, INC. (TDS), HELD its 6th Annual Call Center and BPO Training Convention (5th I credited The Web Effect at The New World) held in Makati City on Feb. 22-25. More than 200 delegates attended this year's Learning convention that featured topics on talent development, awareness of technology and social networking, branding and hiring, and more.

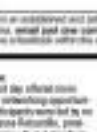
The 1st day started with a bang as TDS teamed up to attend an Argentine exercise for the opening activity. Guests/clients warmly welcomed by non-other than TDS president, Jon Kaplan, Bayanan operations Jonny Bonnet, chairman emeritus of the International Institute for Outsource Management (IIOM) and Gerardo "Gerry" Flores, executive director of People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) chartered by our with a very inspiring talk on "Web Effect" and "Inspirational Leadership: Real Practices & Techniques in People Standard." The











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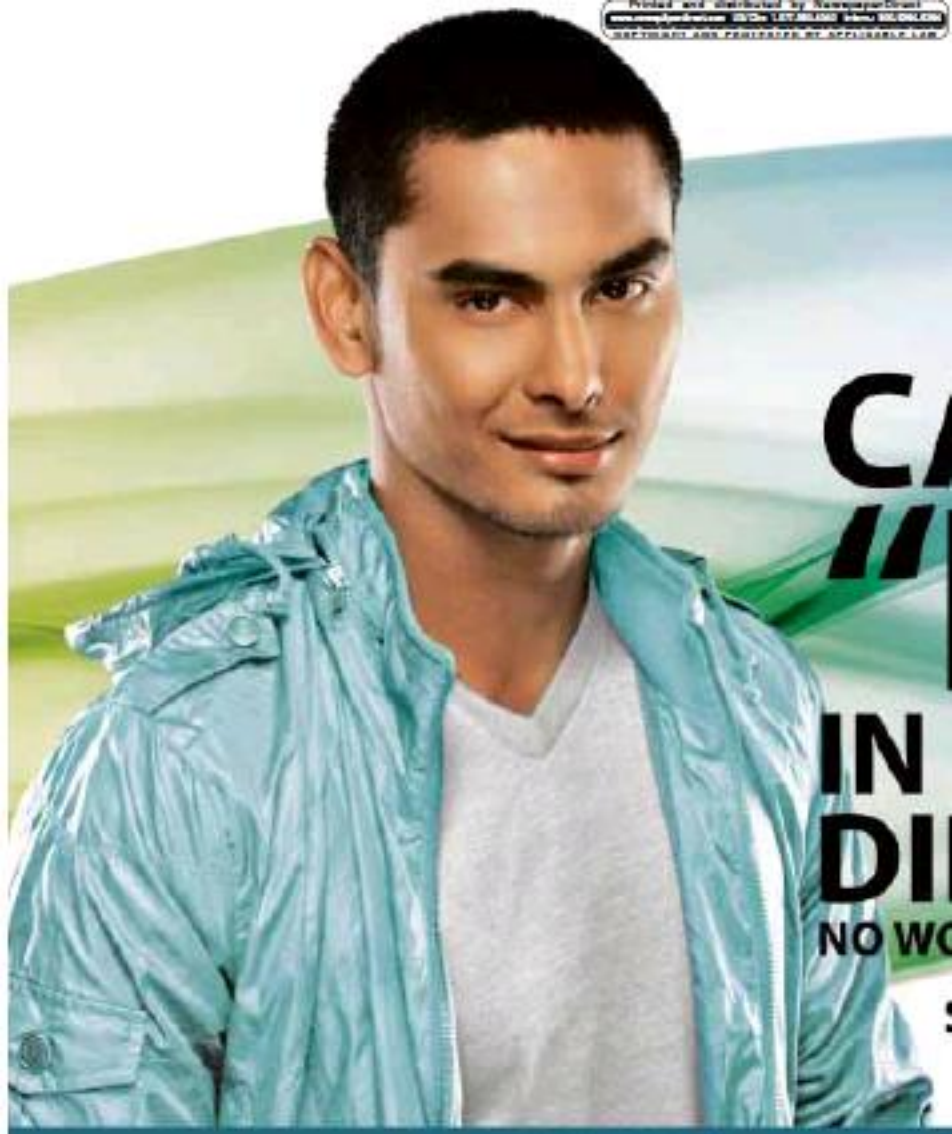
Account Executives (2)

- Must have at least a good track record of one (1) year sales experience in furniture company or related industry
- Proficiency in product presentation, business and sales negotiations
- Can confidently present and offer products and services to hotels, restaurants, schools, business establishments, high-end residential condominium projects, etc.
- Proficiency in MS Office applications and knowledgeable in basic measurements concepts or system used in furniture or space layout
- Salary: P15,000 basic salary + 6 basic emergency benefits + meal allowance + communication allowance + commission + yearly bonus

Jr. Draftsman/Designer (1)

- Proficiency in AutoCad drawing, shop drawing, computing OR of materials, furniture layout and planning
- Proficiency in graphic design software for planning, designing and drafting
- With at least 1 year job experience relating to drafting and designing
- Honors graduates who possessed the skills above are welcome to apply
- Value morning rate of Php80.00/20 inclusive of transportation allowance, regularization rate of up to Php12,000 (exact salary + 6 basic employee benefits + yearly bonus)

If you are genuinely committed, prepared and trained to work in an established and well-supporting, medium-sized furniture manufacturing company located in the town midsole west area, email your one comprehensive resume in MSWord to electronicsystems@gmail.com. Qualified candidates will receive a schedule within this week - your submission of resume.



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WALK IN: **Alabang** - G/F Plaza A Bldg., Northgate Cyberzone
Eastwood - 2F Cybermall Building Eastwood
Makati - 12/F PBCOM Tower, Ayala Avenue
North Edsa - G/F SM North Annex Edsa
Shaw - Upper G/F Worldwide Corporate Center, Shaw Blvd.

Non-Manila Sites
Cebu - G/F i2 Bldg., Asiatown IT Park Lahug
Clark - 2112-2113 C.P. Garcia Cor. Tarlac St., Clark

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Our Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auctions for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

TCT No.	Location	Type	Land Area in sq.m. (more or less)	Minimum Bid Price (Php)	Date and Time of Auction	Place of Auction
4480	East side of Transcentral Highway (Buray Rd.), Brgy. Buray (Upper), Cebu City. About 80 meters north from Mountainview Natures Park or 600 meters north from Buray National High School.	Vacant Residential Land	5,148	2,400,000	Mar. 30, 2011 9:00 a.m.	Regional Trial Court, Branch 17, 3rd Floor, Palace of Justice, Capitol Compound, Cebu City
211192	Along the northwest side of Road 3, within Fabie Estate, Paco, Manila. About 150 meters northeast from the intersection of Onyx and Diamante Streets, some 300 meters southeast from Pedro Gil (Herran) Street and approximately 600 meters southeast from Plaza Dilao.	Residential Land	61.80	606,515	Apr. 06, 2011 10:00 a.m.	In front of the main entrance of the Manila City Hall facing Philippine Normal University

All properties are to be sold on "As-is, Where-is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction dates.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 651-7288 or send an email to: foreclosureproperties@alliedgroupph.com

(SIA – March 27, 2011)

Mayniland

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

1. MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. (MAYNILAD) will undertake the Construction of the following Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) Project:

Contract No.	Project Location	Capacity (CMD)	Lot Area (Sq. Ft.)	Technology (Treatment Process)
MWSP-12-01	Tamaraw Road, Tahanan Village, Parañaque City, Philippines	15,000	15,000	Any of the following: • Activated Sludge Plant • Sequencing Batch Reactor • Membrane Bio-Reactor • Moving Bed Bio-Reactor • Rotating Activated Biofilm Contactor

2. The works for the above project shall include but not limited to the supply of design, labor, materials, and equipment for the following services:

Scope of Work - Design and Construction of STP, including site development, construction of detention sewer, civil works, pipe work system, electrical and control system, main process with such as inlet facilities, equalization tank, secondary treatment, odor, disinfection using say chlorine disinfection, dechlorinating system, final sludge storage tank, discharge pipeline system, installation of electromechanical equipment and condition pipeline system.

3. Interested applicants may obtain further information and secure the prequalification documents at the following address:

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT
PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP
2nd Flr., Engineering Bldg., Maynilad Office,
MWSS Compd., Katipunan Rd., Balara, Q.C., Philippines
Telefax: 981-1601

4. A complete set of prequalification documents may be purchased by any interested applicants from the above address starting 28 March 2011, upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,000.00), payable to Maynilad.

5. The accomplished prequalification document must be submitted on or before 12:00 noon of 20 May 2011, at the address specified above.

6. Late submittals will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the clock located in the Contracts Management Office.

MARIO REYNALDO M. CAJAYON
Head, Water Supply Operations & Program Mgt.

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APARTMENT

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   - Mabuhay Rd., Executive Vill., Las Piñas
   - Shaw Blvd., Pasig/Ortigas, Pasig City
3. COMMERCIAL SITE
   - EDSA cor. Boni Serrano Ave., Quezon City
4. STRATEGIC TARPS
   - Tarlac, Pampanga

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0915-4-TARPS, 0915-4-TARLAC

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MALE/FEMALE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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INSURANCE

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HOUSE & LOT

HOUSE & LOT

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

VETERINARIAN

CREBA welcomes real estate professionals to NAR membership open house

THE CHAMBER OF REAL Estate & Builders' Associations Inc. (CREBA) has invited real estate practitioners and other professionals in the field of real estate to apply for membership to develop expertise in different areas of global and regional real estate development as mandated in Republic Act 9646 or the Real Estate Service Act.

Chamber chief executive officer Atty. Joey Salgado said the membership open house for prospective international RE, ALTURA Realty Inc. (ARI), the "value for real estate" representing over 1.3 million members in the United States as well as over 60 associate centers throughout.

The said announced by Salgado, JP Gonzalez, CREBA National President and Atty. E. Tapucar, Vice President for National Affairs.

On March 27, the RAN signed an agreement with Chinese Realtors Association, Vice President and CEO Robert Alcantara C. Ramos, accompanied by Chamber as the official for operating Association in the Philippines.

RAN, a NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® in the United States and globally recognized REALTORS® dedicated to offering services to the largest online real estate library in the world, a searchable database of over 1 million active listings and other tools pursuit to homeowner and developers, businesses & international business, among many others.

Real estate practitioners still believe the most potential economic investment and opportunities still exist in the real estate industry despite the economic crisis. Thus, many companies want to continue investing knowledge of real estate practices to the highest standards of practice that will enable investors to fulfill the standards of practitioners in the Philippines and make them globally competitive and as an effective investment zone to the international community to cooperate.

As Salgado and a new agreement between CREBA and RAN is to expand knowledge by helping the profitable organizations of affiliates of professionals engaged in real estate business and practice. The organization members and practitioners to exchange information and ideas of the Philippines.

Salgado said CREBA has a Real Estate Executive headed by Evangeline A. Ong as chairman, Executive Vice Chairman Jose Eli Jacquier-Cortez and Secretary Joy as members.

Membership in ARI may be applied through online application and an official email address with the Members, but all ARI Members as well as the Philippines. Membership in ARI is a multi-billion dollar organization as well as the Philippines.

The Philippine Chamber of Real Estate Executives is headed by Evangeline A. Ong as chairman, Executive Vice Chairman Jose Eli Jacquier-Cortez and Secretary Joy as members.

35TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Filipino Chinese Federation, Inc. (FCEF) conducted its 35th Annual Convention & Induction Ceremony on March 12 at the Rizal Hotel, Manila. The Federation is active in promoting continuing professional education, community social service, scholarship programs for deserving students and other socio-civic activities. Outgoing president, Dr. Leslie P. Kho whose notable term of office had been cut short by a bout with cancer, underwent successful treatment and rehabilitation for 24 months handed authority to Dr. Johnson Agustin who, president for 2011. FCEF also awarded Jocelyn U. Ong, PRM CRB specialist of Unibuk as honorary member. Thereafter the signing of a new partnership of Unibuk with the continuing education program of the foundation was established.

Request for Submission of Applications

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project –Phase 2 (PRISM2) is seeking applications for grant awards intended for

Expanding Access to FP/RCH Services through Public-Private Partnerships in Professional Midwife Practice

RFA 2011-04-00

PRISM2 is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Numbers GHS-I-00-07-00006 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

Grant funding will be provided to successful applications in accordance with the standard USAID policies.

This solicitation is open to profit and non-profit organizations that are legally registered and recognized by Philippine authorities, and compliant with all applicable civil and fiscal regulations.

Eligible organizations include service providers (groups; cooperatives; educational institutions; foundations and associations; NGOs and; private practicing organizations that are not fully or partially owned by the government of the Philippines. Specific eligibility requirements are introduced in the Request for Application (RFA) document.

Applicants interested in getting the full details of this solicitation can request for copies of the full RFA document via email at grants@prism2.ph. Likewise, the RFA can be downloaded in PDF format from the PRISM2 website (http://www.prism2.ph/grants/)

The closing date for the submission of applications is, 5:00 p.m., April 30, 2011.

All questions or inquiries concerning this RFA must be directed to Ms. Judy Geronimo, SPF Grants and Subcontracts Manager at email address: grants@prism2.ph.

ADDENDUM to RFA 2011-02-00:

Expanding Access to HIV/RCH Services in Bohol and Negros Oriental through Public-Private Partnerships in Professional Midwife Practice

Issued By

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project – Phase 2 (PRISM2), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number: GHS-I-00-07-00006 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

This Notice is to inform interested applicants to the **RFA 2011-02-00** issued on March 09, 2011, entitled "***Expanding Access to HIV/RCH Services in Bohol and Negros Oriental through Public-Private Partnerships in Professional Midwife Practice***" of the changes and/or clarification on certain requirements indicated under the following sections of the RFA:

1. **Section C – Evaluation Criteria; and**
2. **Section H – Instructions to Applicants**

Applicants are requested to consult the **http://www.prism2.ph/grants/** for details, information or questions concerning this Addendum to RFA must be directed to **Ms. Judy Geronimo**, SPF Grants and Subcontracts Manager at email address: **grants@prism2.ph**

ADDENDUM to RFA 2011-03-00:

Improving RH/MCH Service Coverage at Sugar Farming Communities in Negros Occidental through Public-Private Partnerships

Issued By

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Health Project – Phase 2 (PRISM2), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number: GHS-I-00-07-00006 and implemented by Chemonics International Incorporated.

This Notice is to inform interested applicants to the **RFA 2011-03-00** issued on March 09, 2011 entitled "***Improving RH/MCH Service Coverage at Sugar Farming Communities in Negros Occidental through Public-Private Partnerships***" of the changes and/or clarification on certain requirements indicated under the following sections of the RFA:

1. **Section H – Instructions to Applicants**

Applicants are requested to consult (**http://www.prism2.ph/grants/**) for details, full inquiries or questions concerning this Addendum to the RFA must be directed to **Ms. Judy Geronimo**, SPF Grants and Subcontracts Manager at email address: **grants@prism2.ph**

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (CODAC), invites Consulting Firms and Individual Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and Shortlisting for the consultancy projects:

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Type	Funding Source	Evaluation Procedure
1. Procurement Specialist (Re-bid) – CODAC-HEP-11-001	To provide technical assistance on the execution of procurement activities during project implementation. The Procurement Specialist will focus on the procurement of goods, consulting services and civil works requirements under the Foreign Assisted Projects.	Individual	World Bank	Consultant's Qualification Selection
2. Strategic Health Sector Information and Evaluation – CODAC-HEP-11-002	To develop a learning and information and evaluation (M and E) implementation plan that will harmonize all existing health sector M and E data systems and collection, analysis and reporting tools.	Individual	World Bank	Consultant's Qualification Selection
3. Third Party Verification of the DOH Procurement – CODAC-HEP-11-003	To develop innovative approaches and tools that will support the independent verification of the GOP procurement and the governance indicators of the agency. To recommend the feasibility of outsourcing procurement verification and management functions to the CSO community.	Firm	World Bank	Consultant's Qualification Selection

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested Firms and Individual Consultants must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting projects on or before 11 April 2011, 10:00 A.M at 5/F Building II, CODAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline of submission for eligibility documents shall be on the date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents, 11 April 2011, 10:00 A.M at 5/F Building II, CODAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion.
2. The CODAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/applications of interest and found to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The shortlist shall consist of a maximum of three (3) prospective bidders who will be invited to submit bids.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizen of the Philippines. In accordance with Section 23.4.1 of the IRR of RA 9184, only those short listed bidders/consultants are allowed to participate. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to Bidders.
4. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Consulting Firms and individual consultants **should download and review** the REI at the PhilGEPS website, www.philgeps.gov.ph through its facilities or 8888-57-11 or 36.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all Bids and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding if the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the DOH. If the project is no longer necessary as determined by the DOH and when the funds for the program/project duly have been withheld or reduced through no fault of the CODAC at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

CODAC SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
3rd Floor Building II, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 743-83-01 Loc. 1602 / 1603, Telefax No. 7230021 Loc. 1602
Website: www.doh.gov.ph Email: codacsecretariat@yahoo.com.ph

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MARISSA T. CAÑO, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, CODAC

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Dr. Mariano V. De Los Santos

Co-Founder and Second President
of The University of Manila

In memory of his 115th Birth Anniversary
March 27, 2011

The University of Manila community together with all the members of the family, relatives, and friends, request everyone to join them on his natal day celebration of the Holy Mass at The University of Manila Chapel at 10 A.M.

Other Masses will be held at:

San Sebastian Parish	7:00 A.M.
National Shrine of St. Michael and the Archangels	7:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Loreto	6:00 A.M.
St. Anthony's Shrine	6:15 A.M.
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine	6:30 A.M.
Abbey of our Lady Montserrat	7:00 A.M.
Sto. Domingo Convent	6:00 A.M.
Mother of Perpetual Help	6:00 A.M.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	6:00 A.M.
Santisimo Rosario Parish	6:00 A.M.

LINO MUNCAL GONZALES

September 25, 1931 - March 20, 2011

Died in the Grace of our Almighty God on March 20, 2011 at the age of 79.

He will always be remembered by his family, relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at their residence in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be at Heavenly Peace Memorial Park, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 9:00 AM.

For other details you may call Arlington Memorial Chapels at 7151031 or 7151025 to 26.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DR. BRICCIO YÑIGO POBRE

Chief of Hospital
– Tarlac Provincial Hospital
– Paulino J. Garcia Medical Center
– Cagayan Valley Medical Center
– Canlubang Emergency Hospital

(Peacefully joined our lord on March 18, 2011 at the age of 67)

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of you, our friends and colleagues, who sent flowers, Mass cards, messages of sympathy, donations in cash and in kind, spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

Please continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

Sincerely yours,

Children: Baldemero, Dr. Antonio, Drs. Josephine and Andrew Su, Teresita and Mario Evidente, Judy, Oscar and Shirley, Lourdes and Alex Tan, Brigite and Arnaldo Mabor; Grandchildren, Great grandchildren; his only surviving sister and brother-in-law Pilar and Victorino Cuni; sister-in-law Trifenia Pobre.

To Jesus through Mary

JOSE ALMONTE, JR. y FOZ

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 24, 2011

His beloved wife, Merl, brothers & sisters: Carmen, Rafael, Gerardo, Robert, Oscar & Cory; sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Chapel C, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 31, 2011 after the 8:00 a.m. holy mass.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4)

ÍNIGO LAZARO IGNACIO

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 20, 2011

His relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, Km. 16-A, Palong Bahangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 2:00 pm at the Palong Bahangin Catholic Cemetery.

LION HOC C. KOE

a.k.a. Jose Bobby Lee

peacefully joined his Creator on the 24th day of March 2011.

His bereaved family and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, 29 March 2011 at 9 a.m.

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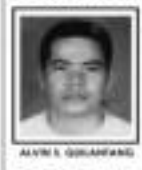
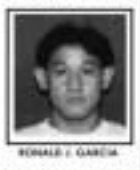
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ORLANDO S. MANGUBAT

ARMANDO S. BAÑICO



ALVIN S. GUILLAMANAC



RONALD J. GARCIA

Notice is hereby given that the above named persons with their pictures are no longer connected with NE Group of Companies, Inc. (Cebanatuan Festfood Ventures) We have ceased honoring all transactions entered into by the above named persons for and in behalf of the company. NE Group does not sanction all representations made by them not in accord with company standards and policies.

THE MANAGEMENT
NE Group of Companies, Inc.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Government Corporation with a Charter Mandate and a Mission to Serve

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One (1) Lot Assorted Used Tokens / "U.S.G. WAIVE-IN" tokens
ITB No. 03-04-2011

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), in order to implement Section 11 of its Charter, PUBLIC AUCTION for One (1) Lot Assorted Used Tokens ("U.S.G. WAIVE-IN" tokens)

Price Floor: Two Pesos shall be duly per unit (50%) of the total cost of each coded token (Casino Name, Game, & Denomination) ~~Five Pesos (P5.00) per token~~ (UNDER METAL and DEEP EMBOSSED PRINTS on Back) (P2.50/token)

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Interested parties are requested to submit the following Pre-Qualification documents to the Bids Secretariat on Level 1, 4th Floor, Administration Building, Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City:
   a. Any of the following (by facsimile not entities only)
      - Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) registration
      - Mayor's permit
   b. Tax Identification Number
   c. Letter of Intent
   d. Authorization letter for representative/substitute bidder (for duly corporation/partnership) or Secretary's Certificate/Board Resolution (for corporation)
   e. Any (1) valid government issued identification card (SSS, Passport, Driver's License, Company I.D.)
2. Deadline of submission of the Pre-Qualification papers is on **MARCH 28, 2011**
3. Complete details of the project are indicated in the bid documents which will be available to prospective bidders at the Bids Secretariat only upon the submission of the pre-qualification papers mentioned in item 1 above, upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) per set to qualified bidders and on **MARCH 29, 2011**. Corresponding payment must be made through Philippine National Bank (PNB) Account No. 3241-600000-00.
4. Each duly accredited bidder is encouraged to only bid for the items of interest indicated in their respective PAGCOR-Primary Bonds process in accordance with the policy of Equality Treatment Bidders (PAGCOR-001).
5. Inspection of the items for bidding will be conducted after the Pre-Bid Conference, which is scheduled on **MARCH 31, 2011 (Thursday)**
6. PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have entered into collusion with other participants and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any deficiency or formalities found therein and to accept such bid as is most favorable to the interest of the government without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
7. For other information and/or inquiries, please call Mr. Mr. 521-7451 loc. 2232/27 or 834-0011 or 834-0012 loc 2232 (Jessica L. Jose)

Please address all communications to the undersigned of the Logistics and General Services Department, 3rd Floor, PAGCOR House, CBD, Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila.

Thank you.

(Sgd.) **JOSE CHRISTOPHER M. MANALO III**
Officer-in-Charge
Logistics and General Services Department

(PSE – March 24, 27 & 28, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Public Works and Highways
BACOLOD-NEGROS OCCIDENTAL DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE
Bacolod City
(034) 433-2144 loc. 105 / (034) 433-2144 / Telefax (034) 433-2222

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Bacolod-Negros Occidental District Engineering Office (BNODEO), through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for CY 2011 intends to apply the sum of the following for the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the following projects:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
a. Light Vehicles (Sedan) & Light Vehicles	Php 1,400,000.00
b. Light Vehicles (Van) & Light Vehicles	Php 1,400,000.00
c. Light Vehicles (Pick-up) & Light Vehicles	Php 1,400,000.00
d. Motorcycle Scooter	Php 1,400,000.00
e. 4x4 Vehicles	Php 1,400,000.00
f. Motorcycle	Php 1,400,000.00

2. The BNODEO now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the above mentioned projects. Delivery of goods is required within **seventy (60) days** upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed by the Implementing Office. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
3. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.
4. Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Chief District Engineer Staff (C) at the Office of the Chief District Engineer (DE) or Ms. Abby Grace Ogarte, Tel. No. (034) 433-2144 loc. 105 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)** and shall be open to prospective Bidders on the above mentioned date.
5. The BNODEO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **March 31, 2011, 3:00 p.m.** at the BNODEO Conference Room, which shall be open to prospective bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
6. Bids must be delivered on or before the time and date specified in paragraph 2 above. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
7. The Opening of Bids shall be on **April 15, 2011, 1:30 p.m.** at the BNODEO Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.
8. The BNODEO reserves the right to reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Noel Nicolo C. Nacalo
Officer-in-Charge/Chief Professional Staff
BNODEO, Bacolod City

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. CRUZ, JR.**
Chief District Engineer

(PSE – March 27, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3F Robinsons Bldg. II, Brgy. Punta, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-1208

March 21, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following employer/petitioners have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	SU POWER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES CORP. Mitsubishi Motors na Pulig, Brgy. Pulo, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Hyungsoo Park Korean	Operation Manager
2.	SUMITOMO METAL ASTENAISS, INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Junkyo Hori Japanese	Plant Manager
3.	[illegible] Brgy. Diamond, Antipolo, Rizal	Mr. Kenji Jimmy Lee Korean	Administrative Manager
4.	[illegible] Brgy. San Jose, Batangas	Mr. Sang Chul Shin Korean	Teacher
5.	[illegible] Brgy. San Luis, Batangas	Mr. Jae Hyung Moon Korean	Teacher

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

To avail of free pre-referral, placement, and employment guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log on to www.phil-job.com.

(PSE – March 27, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (02) 924-7071, 924-7971
Telefax: 924-7973
Mobile Number: (0917) 8676369
URL: http://www.nmis.da.gov.ph
email: nmis@da.gov.ph and nmis@nmis.gov.ph

ADVISORY

The Department of Agriculture-National Meat Inspection Service wants to assure the Filipino public that the Philippines do not import any meat and meat products from Japan. We have no reason to suspect that the recent events in Japan have affected the safety of our meat.

We will continue to be vigilant to make sure that our meat and meat products remain safe for consumption.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JANE C. BACAYO**
Executive Director
National Meat Inspection Service

(PSE – March 27, 2011)

ALBAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
M. Vinzons St., Old Albay Dist., Legazpi City

INVITATION TO BID

To supply the electricity requirements of Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ALECO)

ALECO is pleased to invite interested parties to submit its bid/offer to supply the electricity requirements of ALECO for approximately 196,000,000 kwh per year for a term of three (3) years of supply contract commencing on May 26, 2011.

ALECO is a distribution utility/cooperative managing the power distribution and supply to the whole province of Albay comprising of three (3) cities and fourteen (14) municipalities.

Interested parties' offer to supply power should include a line/profile of their company and must be submitted to the address below on or before April 15, 2011. For more information needed by the parties, please contact:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
Albay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
M. Vinzons St., Old Albay Dist., Legazpi City
Tel. No.: (052) 481-5648; (052) 820-3668
E-mail: aleco_mgm@yahoo.com

(PSE – March 27 & 28, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Lantian City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project: Supply of Various Equipment to Schools, CCT / Diploma in Calendar City, Radio Equipment and Materials for Disk Media Management
Location: Calendar City
Bid Doc. No.: 2011-03-1155
Website: www.bidsandaward.gov.ph
Approved Budget for the Contract: [illegible]

ICT for Students	Php 2,000,000.00
ICT Equipment	Php 1,000,000.00
Radio Equipment	[illegible]

Source of Fund: Office Memorandum CY 2010 Ordinance No. 1888 (Sec. 2, 2010 B, 2010 and 2011)

Item No.	QTY	DESCRIPTION
1.	1 set	ICT SYSTEM FOR DIPLOMA IN CITY with minimum specifications as follows:
A.	CAMERA	Minimum of Number of 25 units, with minimum technical specifications: 1. ICT 1 specifications: [illegible] capability, video Compression: up to not less than 25mm resolution, 3 mega pixels 2. [illegible] Minimum Lens range of 50 meters, color display 3. [illegible] Minimum 30 fixed minimum simultaneous motion recording and playback and network operations
B.	CPU	One (1) set for remote monitoring, Compatible with DVR and Camera, One 1 Any two (2) unused motherboard, 1Gb video card, 1Tb HDD, with 750w ATX 2.0 rating, mouse with pad
C.	MONITOR	One (1) set 32 inch LCD monitor
D.	Warranty	Two (2) year warranty on parts, actual and video system, thank you in case of equipment failure within 48 hours, and support during warranty.
E.	Delivery Period	30 days upon receipt of notice to proceed
2.	30 units	MULTICAB VEHICLES PICK-UP TYPE (Color: RED Delivery Period: 45 days upon receipt of P.O.
3.	5 units 1 unit 40 units 4 units	COMPUTER FURNITURE TRADITIONAL RADIO REPEATER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL SECRETARIAL CAMERAS Delivery Period: 30 days upon receipt of P.O.

The contract shall be for the supply of equipment and materials as more fully described, and installation of data and and qualifications, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Pre-Bid Conference

Date: April 1, 2011
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Place: Office of the City Administrator, Calendar City

Submission of Bids, Eligibility Check/Opening of Bids:

Date: April 15, 2011
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Place: Office of the City Administrator, Calendar City

Issuance and availability of bidding documents shall be from March 31 to April 15, 2011 at the City Office on normal business hours (8a.m.-5p.m. Monday-Friday).

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any irregularities therein and formalities and to accept the bid to the advantage of the City Government. Bids documents may be secured from the Office of the General Services Duties Office Manila. For further details please see or contact Mr. Eduardo P. Dela, SAC, Secretariat of the above entitled.

(Sgd.) ATTY. FRANCIS CYNTHIA GUANIN-SUAREZ
City Administrator
SAC-1154/1164

(PSE – March 27, 2011)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna 4031

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
Call for Eligibility, Invitation to Bid and Bid Opening

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Government Procurement Law (R.A. 9184) and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all prospective bidders to participate in the bidding for the procurement of the following projects:

Reference No.	Description	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Bidding Fee (PhP)
A	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
B	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BACS) Office at UPLB, Administration Building, Collegio, Los Baños, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount indicated above. Bidding documents may be downloaded free of charge from the UPLB website (www.uplb.edu.ph). Bidders who shall secure the bidding documents from the website should submit a letter of intent to participate in the bidding addressed to the BAC Office or other submission of eligibility requirements, by or on the day of bidding documents purchase.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Activity	A. [illegible]	B. [illegible]	Place
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	[illegible]	[illegible]	BACS Conference Room, Administration Building, Collegio, Los Baños, Laguna
2. Pre-Bid Conference	[illegible]	[illegible]	BACS Conference Room, Administration Building, Collegio, Los Baños, Laguna
3. Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Bids	[illegible]	[illegible]	BACS Conference Room, Administration Building, Collegio, Los Baños, Laguna
4. Bid Opening	[illegible]	[illegible]	BACS Conference Room, Administration Building, Collegio, Los Baños, Laguna

The UPLB-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to the contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, in accordance with Section 41 of R.A. 9184 and its IRR.

Further clarifications may be obtained from the UPLB-BAC Secretariat through telephone number [illegible] and fax number [illegible].

[illegible]
Chairperson, BAC

(PSE – March 27, 2011)

UNIVERSITY HOTEL
University of the Philippines

23 March 2011

INVITATION OF BID

The University Hotel (UH), through its Bids and Awards Committee invites prospective bidders to submit sealed bids/proposals for the lease of a newly constructed retail on the Ground Floor of the UH measuring approximately fifty (50) sq. m. Hotel Bid Technical Specifications:

- Minimum rental per month – P250.00/sq.m.
- Air-conditioning, Lighting – at the expense of the lessee, comply fire safety regulations (FSIC)
- Electricity and water – chargeable against the tenant (as computed by meter)
- One month deposit and one month advance rental
- Monthly rental payable at the beginning of the month in the concierge (as day for delayed payment)
- Duration of the lease: 1 years
- Any extension – subject to negotiation

Other matters for consideration – subject to negotiation

Interested parties may inspect the room on weekdays during office hours.

Deadline of submission of proposals: 10 April 2011, 5:00 p.m., at the Supply and Property Office, University Hotel.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Amalia P. Ilagan at telephone number 435-0164 / 435-0167 / 981-7975.

(Sgd.) **MARTIN V. CASSINO**
Resident Manager

(PSE – March 27 & April 3, 2011)

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Retail Lending Marketing Officers - Metro Manila
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*with or without work experience/ open to fresh graduates with honors and leadership positions in school or community organizations.

E-mail: talent.@bpi.com.ph
Online: BPI Website: www.bpiexpressonline.com
Walk-in: 5th floor BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Every Tuesday & Thursday from 8am to 10am.
Requirements: Comprehensive resume, copy of Transcript of Records, and 2x2 photo.

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